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UNITED STATES AIR FORCE BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2024-03721

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COUNSEL: NONE

HEARING REQUESTED: NO

APPLICANT'S REQUEST

His general (under honorable conditions) be upgraded to honorable, based on the repeal of Title 10, United States Code, Section 654 (10 U.S.C. § 654).

APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS

He admitted he was gay to his superiors when it was not allowed. He requests an upgrade to honorable and that it be reflected on his DD Form 214, *Report of Separation from Active Duty*.

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit A.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The applicant is a former Air Force sergeant (E-4).

On 29 Aug 75, the applicant's commander recommended the applicant be discharged from the Air Force, under the provisions of AFM 39-12, *Separation for Unsuitability, Misconduct, Personal Abuse of Drugs; Resignation or Request for Discharge for the Good of the Service; and Procedures for the Rehabilitation Program*. The specific reason for the action was engaging in homosexual activity with another individual, which the applicant admitted to the Office of Special Investigations on 27 Jun 75.

The Staff Judge Advocate found the discharge action legally sufficient and noted the applicant's commander and the base staff judge advocate recommended an honorable discharge due to the applicant's outstanding work record and absence of prior disciplinary problem. However, the base group commander recommended a general discharge due to the applicant's continued involvement in homosexual activities during his current enlistment and expressed intention to continue this behavior.

On 29 Aug 75, the discharge authority directed the applicant be discharged for sexual perversion, with a general (under honorable conditions) service characterization. Probation and rehabilitation were considered but not offered.

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On 5 Sep 75, the applicant received a general (under honorable conditions) discharge under the authority of AFM 39-12 with a reason of "HLL," which denotes involuntarily discharge, unfitness, sexual perversion. He was credited with 3 years, 8 months, and 15 days of total active service.

For more information, see the excerpt of the applicant's record at Exhibit B.

APPLICABLE AUTHORITY/GUIDANCE

On 20 Sep 11, with the repeal of the law commonly known as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT), 10 U.S.C. § 654, the Department of Defense (DoD) issued supplemental policy guidance on correcting military records of former service members who had been discharged under that law or a precursor. The guidance applied to the following types of requests: changing the narrative reason for a discharge; re-characterizing service as honorable; changing a reentry code to one allowing immediate eligibility to reenter service. The guidance directed that such requests should normally be granted when both of the following conditions are true: (1) the original discharge was based solely on DADT or a similar policy in place prior to enactment of DADT; and (2) there were no aggravating factors in the record, such as misconduct. For meritorious cases, the guidance further directed the use of "Secretarial Authority" as the new narrative reason for separation, with Separation Program Designator (SPD) code "JFF" and reentry code "1J." In addition, the guidance noted that while each request must be evaluated individually, an honorable or under honorable conditions (general) discharge should normally be considered to indicate the absence of aggravating factors. Finally, the issuance of a discharge under DADT or the taking of an action pursuant to DoD regulations related to a discharge under DADT should not by itself be considered to constitute an error or injustice that would invalidate an otherwise proper action taken pursuant to DADT and applicable DoD policy. Thus, remedies such as correcting a record to reflect continued service with no discharge, restoration to a previous grade or position, credit for time lost, or an increase from no separation pay to half or full separation pay or from half separation to full separation pay, would not normally be appropriate.

The complete DoD policy is at Exhibit C.

APPLICANT'S REVIEW OF APPLICABLE AUTHORITY/GUIDANCE

The Board sent a copy of the DoD policy to the applicant on 14 May 25 for comment (Exhibit D) but received no response.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

1. The application is timely.
2. The applicant exhausted all available non-judicial relief before applying to the Board.
3. After reviewing all Exhibits, the Board concludes the applicant is the victim of an injustice. While the Board finds no error in the original discharge process, the Board recommends relief based on the repeal of 10 U.S.C. § 654. The absence of aggravating factors in the applicant's record meets the criteria of the DoD policy on records correction following the repeal of DADT. Therefore, the Board recommends correcting the applicant's record as indicated below.

RECOMMENDATION

The pertinent military records of the Department of the Air Force relating to applicant be corrected to show the DD Form 214, *Report of Separation from Active Duty*, issued on 5 Sep 75, be amended to reflect he was discharged with service characterized as honorable, a Separation Code of JFF, a Narrative Reason for Separation of Secretarial Authority, and a Reentry code of 1J.

CERTIFICATION

The following quorum of the Board, as defined in Department of the Air Force Instruction (DAFI) 36-2603, *Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records (AFBCMR)*, paragraph 2.1, considered Docket Number BC-2024-03721 in Executive Session on 4 Sep 25:

Work-Product, Panel Chair
Work-Product, Panel Member
Work-Product, Panel Member

All members voted to correct the record. The panel considered the following:

- Exhibit A: Application, DD Form 149, w/atchs, dated 18 Oct 24.
- Exhibit B: Documentary Evidence, including relevant excerpts from official records.
- Exhibit C: DoD Policy on Correcting Military Records after Repeal of DADT, dated 20 Sep 11.
- Exhibit D: Notification of DoD Policy, SAF/MRBC to applicant, dated 14 May 25.

Taken together with all Exhibits, this document constitutes the true and complete Record of Proceedings, as required by DAFI 36-2603, paragraph 4.12.9.

9/23/2025

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Board Operations Manager, AFBCMR
Signed by: USAF