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UNITED STATES AIR FORCE BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2024-03764

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COUNSEL: NONE

HEARING REQUESTED: NO

APPLICANT'S REQUEST

His entry level separation (ELS) uncharacterized discharge be upgraded to general or honorable.

APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS

He was misled by the recruiting officer regarding his expected pay. He was assured that his military compensation would be sufficient to meet his financial obligations, which was not the case. Upon entering service, he quickly realized that his pay was far below what was necessary to cover his existing debts and living expenses and felt he had no choice but to accept an early separation to avoid further financial ruin.

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit A.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The applicant is a former Air Force airman basic (E-1).

On 1 Dec 97, according to AF Form 31, *Airman's Request for Early Separation/Separation Based on Change in Service Obligation*, the applicant requested separation due to financial hardship.

On 12 Dec 97, according to AF Form 100, *Request and Authorization for Separation*, the applicant's request for early separation was approved.

On 16 Dec 97, the applicant received an uncharacterized ELS discharge. His narrative reason for separation is "hardship" and he was credited with 3 months, and 27 days of total active service.

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

APPLICABLE AUTHORITY/GUIDANCE

Department of the Air Force Instruction (AFI 36-3208), *Administrative Separation of Airmen*, dated 14 Oct 94, describes the authorized service characterizations that were applicable at the time of the applicant's separation.

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Honorable. The quality of the airman's service generally has met Air Force standards of acceptable conduct and performance of duty or when a member's service is otherwise so meritorious that any other characterization would be inappropriate.

Under Honorable Conditions (General). If an airman's service has been honest and faithful, this characterization is warranted when significant negative aspects of the airman's conduct or performance of duty outweigh positive aspects of the airman's military record.

Under Other than Honorable Conditions. When basing the reason for separation on a pattern of behavior or one or more acts or omissions that constitute a significant departure from the conduct expected of airmen. The member must have an opportunity for a hearing by an administrative discharge board or request discharge in lieu of trial by court-martial.

Entry Level Separation. Airmen are in entry level status during the first 180 days of continuous active military service or the first 180 days of continuous active military service after a break of more than 92 days of active service. Determine the member's status by the date of notification; thus, if the member is in entry level status when initiating the separation action, it is described as an entry level separation unless:

- A service characterization of under other than honorable conditions is authorized under the reason for discharge and is warranted by the circumstances of the case; or
- The Secretary of the Air Force determines, on a case-by-case basis, that characterization as honorable is clearly warranted by unusual circumstances of personal conduct and performance of military duty.

Title 10, United States Code, Section 1168: Discharge or release from active duty: limitation; DoDI 1336.01, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214/5 Series)*; AFI 36-3202, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214/5 Series)*; DD Form 214 Total Force Personnel Services Delivery Guide. The DD Form 214 is prepared in accordance with the aforementioned publications and is used to record qualifying active-duty service.

AIR FORCE EVALUATION

AFPC/DPMSSR recommends denying the application. In accordance with AFI 36-3208, paragraph 1.19, Airmen are in entry level status during the first 180 days of continuous active military service. The Department of Defense (DoD) determined if a member served less than 180 days continuous active service, it would be unfair to the member and the service to characterize their limited service. Based on review of the applicant's request and the Master of Personnel Record, there **IS NO** error or injustice with the discharge processing or the preparation of the DD Form 214, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*. To grant relief would be contrary to the criteria established by DoD & Air Force guidance at the time of separation.

The complete advisory opinion is at Exhibit C.

APPLICANT'S REVIEW OF AIR FORCE EVALUATION

The Board sent a copy of the advisory opinion to the applicant on 6 Jun 25 for comment (Exhibit D) but has received no response.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

1. The application was not timely filed. The Board notes the applicant did not file the application within three years of discovering the alleged error or injustice, as required by Section 1552 of Title 10, United States Code, and Department of the Air Force Instruction 36-2603, *Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records (AFBCMR)*.

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 not the victim of an error or injustice. The recommendation of AFPC/DPMSSR finds the preponderance of the evidence does not substantiate the applicant's contentions. Therefore, the Board recommends against correcting the applicant's records.

RECOMMENDATION

The Board recommends informing the applicant that the evidence did not demonstrate material error or injustice, and the Board will reconsider the application only upon receipt of relevant evidence not already presented.

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-2024-03764 in Executive Session on 18 Sep 25:

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

All members voted against correcting the record. The panel considered the following:

- Exhibit A: Application, DD Form 149, w/atchs, dated 1 Oct 24.
- Exhibit B: Documentary evidence, including relevant excerpts from official records.
- Exhibit C: Advisory Opinion, AFPC/DPMSSR, dated 5 Jun 25.
- Exhibit D: Notification of Advisory, SAF/MRBC to Applicant, dated 6 Jun 25.

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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.

10/16/2025

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Board Operations Manager, AFBCMR

Signed by: Work-Product

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