



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2024-04130

Work-Product

COUNSEL: NONE

HEARING REQUESTED: YES

APPLICANT'S REQUEST

His "uncharacterized" entry level separation (ELS) be upgraded to honorable.

APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS

He was approved for a waiver in 2010 to rejoin the Air Force Reserve (AFR). For his original DD Form 214, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*, in 2003, there is documentation indicating he could not continue with pararescue due to medical reasons (fractured tibia). This discharge was unjustly characterized and has placed a red flag on his military career as tactical air control party (TACP)/ joint terminal attack controller (JTAC) where he currently serves. He has recently been informed he could lose his position and have to pay back any bonuses he received in the past, which in-turn, could cause financial hardship for his family. He is currently in his 14th year of service and wishes to fulfill his 20 years of service with honor. He was not aware his DD Form 214 had not been changed since he reenlisted in 2010. His recruiter at the time said the documents were taken care of and there was nothing further he needed to do. However, he was recently informed by retentions of this discrepancy, and he needed to make a request to have this document corrected if he wishes to finish out his career as TACP.

In support of his request for a discharge upgrade, the applicant provides an AF Form 31, *Airman's Request for Early Separation/Separation Based on Change in Service Obligation*, a DD Form 214, medical documents, and an enlistment waiver.

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit A.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The applicant is a currently serving Air National Guard (ANG) technical sergeant (E-6).

On 21 Nov 03, according to the DD Form 31, provided by the applicant, the discharge authority approved the applicant's request for early separation due to a defective enlistment, as he was disqualified due to medical reasons.

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On 25 Nov 03, the DD Form 214 indicates the applicant received an ELS. His narrative reason for separation is "Defective Enlistment Agreement" 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

AFI 36-3208, *Administrative Separation of Airmen*, dated 28 May 03, describes the authorized service characterizations that were applicable at the time of the applicant's separation.

Honorable. The quality of the airman's service generally has met Department of the 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.

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, describe it 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.

AIR FORCE EVALUATION

AFPC/DPMSSR recommends denying the application finding no error or injustice with the discharge process. 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 applicant was discharged from the Air Force while still in initial skills training, with less than 180 days of continuous active service. As a result, the discharge is labeled entry level with uncharacterized 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, there is no error or injustice with the discharge processing or the preparation of the DD Form 214.

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 20 Mar 25 for comment (Exhibit D) but has received no response.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

1. The application was timely filed.
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 Board concurs with the rationale and recommendation of AFPC/DPMSSR and finds the preponderance of the evidence does not substantiate the applicant's contentions. Airmen are given entry level separation with uncharacterized service when they fail to complete a minimum of 180 days of continuous active military service and the applicant only served 3 months and 27 days of active service, therefore, the type of separation and character of service are correct as indicated on his DD Form 214. The SAF can determine honorable service is warranted if unusual circumstances of personal conduct and performance of military duty is present; however, the Board finds no evidence to suggest such. Therefore, the Board recommends against correcting the applicant's records.
4. The applicant has not shown a personal appearance, with or without counsel, would materially add to the Board's understanding of the issues involved.

RECOMMENDATION

The Board recommends informing the applicant 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 DAFI 36-2603, *Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records (AFBCMR)*, paragraph 2.1, considered Docket Number BC-2024-04130 in Executive Session on 10 Apr 25:

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Panel Chair

Panel Member

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Panel Member

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

Exhibit A: Application, DD Form 149, w/atchs, dated DD MMM YY.

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Exhibit B: Documentary Evidence, including relevant excerpts from official records.

Exhibit C: Advisory Opinion, AFPC/DPMSSR, dated 11 Mar 25.

Exhibit D: Notification of Advisory, SAF/MRBC to Applicant, dated 20 Mar 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.

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