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| **AIR FORCE DISCHARGE REVIEW BOARD DECISIONAL DOCUMENT** | CASE NUMBER FD-2019-00013 |
| GENERAL: The applicant was discharged on 2 Mar 11 in accordance with AFI 36-3208 with an Entry Level Discharge (Adjustment Discharge). The applicant appealed for an upgrade of his discharge characterization to Honorable. The board was conducted on 18 July 19.  The applicant was offered a personal appearance before the Discharge Review Board (DRB), but declined and requested the board be completed based on a records only review. The applicant was not represented by counsel.  The attached examiner’s brief (provided to applicant only), extracted from available service records, contains pertinent data regarding the circumstances and character of the applicant’s military service.    FINDING: The DRB voted unanimously to deny the applicant’s request to upgrade his discharge characterization to Honorable. The DRB, however, voted unanimously to change the discharge narrative reason to Secretarial Authority.  DISCUSSION: The DRB, under its responsibility to examine the propriety and equity of an applicant’s discharge, is authorized to change the characterization of service and the narrative reason for discharge if such changes are warranted. If applicable, the board can also change the applicant’s reenlistment eligibility code. In reviewing discharges, the board presumes regularity in the conduct of governmental affairs unless there is substantial credible evidence to rebut the presumption, to include evidence submitted by the applicant. The board completed a thorough review of the circumstances that led to the discharge and the discharge process to determine if the discharge met the pertinent standards of equity and propriety.  The applicant contended that an injury he sustained contributed to his adjustment disorder discharge. He feels that the medical injury should carry more weight than the mental health diagnosis. In accordance with AFI 36-3208, Airmen are in entry level status during the first 180 days of continuous active military service. If separated during this time, they normally receive an Entry Level Separation that is not characterized. Because it is Air Force policy to not characterize this type of separation, the applicant’s request to “upgrade” it to Honorable was not approved.  Per guidance from the Department of Defense, applicant requests to change the narrative reason should be approved when the original narrative reason was Adjustment/Personality Disorder and there were no aggravating factors in the record, such as misconduct. The board determined the facts in this case met the criteria and, therefore changed the narrative reason.  CONCLUSION: The board found insufficient evidence of an inequity or impropriety that would warrant a change to the applicant’s discharge. Therefore, the discharge received by the applicant was deemed to be appropriate and his request was not approved. The board did determined the discharge narrative reason was more accurately described as “Secretarial Authority.”  The DRB results were approved by the board president on 26 Jul 19. If desired, the applicant can request a list of the board members and their votes by writing to:  Air Force Review Boards Agency  Attn: Discharge Review Board  1500 West Perimeter Road, Suite 3700  Joint Base Andrews, NAF Washington, MD 20762-6602  Attachment: Examiner's Brief | |