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| **AIR FORCE DISCHARGE REVIEW BOARD DECISIONAL DOCUMENT** | CASE NUMBER FD-2019-00106 |
| GENERAL: The applicant was discharged on 17 Mar 16 in accordance with AFI 36-3208 with a General discharge for Misconduct (Drug Abuse). The applicant appealed for an upgrade of her discharge characterization to Honorable. The board was conducted on 27 Aug 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.  Pursuant to 10 USC §1553, the board included a member who is a psychiatrist with training on mental health issues connected with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or traumatic brain injury (TBI), and training on mental health disorders.  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 her discharge characterization to Honorable.  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’s record of service included one Article 15. Her misconduct included: wrongful use of alpha-hydroxyal prazolam.  Due to evidence of a mental health condition found in the applicant’s medical record, the board considered the case based on the liberal consideration standards required by guidance from the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness and/or 10 USC §1553.  The applicant contended the discharge was improper due to her commander misinterpreting the seven retention criteria, specifically distribution. The applicant also felt the discharge was inequitable because she was having a hard time when she heard her father, who had assaulted her, was being released from prison. The applicant stated the discharge did not take into account the good things she did while serving in the Air Force such as Airman of the Year for her squadron. The DRB considered the contention of impropriety, but did not find any evidence of the commander improperly applying the standard. The DRB also took note of the applicant's duty performance as documented by her performance reports, awards and decorations, and other accomplishments. It found the seriousness of the applicant’s willful misconduct offset the positive aspects of her service. The DRB found no evidence to indicate the applicant was unaware of the Air Force policy of zero tolerance for illegal drug use.  After a thorough review of the service record and inputs from the board’s psychiatrist, the DRB found no conclusive indication that any mental health issues had a direct impact on the applicant's misconduct or discharge.  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 her request was not approved.  The DRB results were approved by the board president on 5 Sep 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 | |