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| **AIR FORCE DISCHARGE REVIEW BOARD DECISIONAL DOCUMENT** | CASE NUMBER FD-2019-00433 |
| GENERAL: The applicant was discharged on 17 Mar 2005 in accordance with AFI 36-3208 with a(n) Entry Level/Uncharacterized discharge without characterization. The applicant appealed for an upgrade of his discharge characterization to Honorable. The board was conducted on 17 Oct 2019.  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/ psychologist 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 his 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 made no contentions that the discharge was inequitable/improper. Applicant contends that his medical conditions was exacerbated during basic training, which resulted in his separation being labeled as Uncharacterized/Entry level. During basic training, he had difficulty in the humid and stressful environment. However he pushed through and completed the training. He reported the continued worsening of his symptoms to his chain of command, and placed a hold on his orders for technical school. Over the next year, his symptoms did not improve and he was ordered to be discharged. After fighting the symptoms he was diagnosed with a medical condition and feels that with the diagnosis, an Honorable discharge should be granted.  In accordance with AFI 36-3208, Airmen that 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 could not be approved.  Upon review of the applicant’s service record, the board was not able to find any documentation regarding the discharge. Since the board relies on the presumption of regularity, it concluded the discharge received by the applicant was appropriate.  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 DRB results were approved by the board president on 7 Apr 20. 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  3351 Celmers Lane  Joint Base Andrews, NAF Washington, MD 20762-6602  Attachment: Examiner's Brief (Applicant Only) | |