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| **AIR FORCE DISCHARGE REVIEW BOARD DECISIONAL DOCUMENT** | CASE NUMBER FD-2019-00709 |
| The applicant was discharged on 6 Oct 2017 in accordance with AFI 36-3208 with an Entry Level/Uncharacterized discharge for an Adjustment Order. The applicant appealed for an upgrade of his discharge characterization to Honorable. The board was conducted on 12 Feb 2020.  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 his discharge characterization to Honorable. The DRB also voted unanimously to *approve* changing 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 experienced mental health problems while attending technical training and was diagnosed with an adjustment disorder. As he had less than 180 days of service, he was discharged with an Entry Level Separation/Uncharacterized discharge.  The applicant made no contentions that the discharge was inequitable or improper. He asserts he experienced personal problems during technical school that prevented him from completing training. The applicant requested his uncharacterized Entry Level Separation be “upgraded” to Honorable. 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 could not be approved.  Per guidance from the Department of Defense, when the original narrative reason was Adjustment Disorder, and there were no aggravating factors in the record, such as misconduct, the DRB is authorized to change the narrative reason to “Secretarial Authority.” The board determined the facts in this case met the criteria and approved changing the narrative reason.    CONCLUSION: The board found insufficient evidence of an inequity or impropriety that would warrant a change to the applicant’s discharge characterization. However, the board determined the narrative reason was more accurately described as “Secretarial Authority.”  The DRB results were approved by the board president on 24 Feb 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) | |