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| **AIR FORCE DISCHARGE REVIEW BOARD DECISIONAL DOCUMENT** | CASE NUMBER FD-2019-00721 |
| GENERAL: The applicant was discharged on 31 Jan 19 in accordance with AFI 36-3208 with a General discharge for Misconduct (Minor Infractions). The applicant appealed for an upgrade of his discharge characterization to Honorable. The board was conducted on 27 Feb 20.  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.  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, one vacation of suspended nonjudicial punishment, six Letters of Reprimand. His misconduct included: failure to adhere to unit leave radius policy; disrespectful toward Airman of higher rank; failure to perform tasks at the level commensurate with grade; failure to go at time prescribed to appointed place of duty (x3); failure to adhere to dress and appearance standards; insubordinate conduct towards an Non-Commissioned Officer; failure to follow instructions, guidelines, and technical orders; and failure to obey an order or regulation.    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 made no contentions that the discharge was inequitable or improper. The applicant accepts responsibility for his actions and is remorseful for the decisions he made. The applicant insists that he has learned from his past mistakes. The applicant submitted mental health notes that prescribed him Adderall due to concerns regarding mental health. The applicant is requesting the upgrade in order to obtain access to the G.I. Bill.  The DRB reviewed the applicant’s entire service record and found no evidence of impropriety or inequity to warrant an upgrade of the discharge. The board understood the applicant’s present service characterization renders him ineligible for the Department of Veteran Affairs education benefits. However, this is not a matter of inequity or impropriety which would warrant an upgrade.  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 his request was not approved.  The DRB results were approved by the board president on 23 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) | |