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| **AIR FORCE DISCHARGE REVIEW BOARD DECISIONAL DOCUMENT** | CASE NUMBER FD-2020-00290 |
| GENERAL: The applicant was discharged on 05 Sep 2019 in accordance with AFI 36-3208 with a(n) General discharge for Pattern of Misconduct. The applicant appealed for an upgrade of her discharge characterization to Honorable. The board was conducted on 04 Jun 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/ 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 her discharge characterization to Honorable, to change the discharge narrative reason to *Secretarial Authority* and to change the reenlistment eligibility code to 2C.  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 an Article 15 and several Letters of Reprimand and Counseling. Her misconduct included: failure to obey, dereliction of duty and several violations of patient’s privacy/unauthorized access of medical records.  Due to evidence of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) / mental health condition/s 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/improper but is requesting the upgrade for her GI Bill. She takes accountability for her misconduct and states that her in-service & educational accomplishments should be taken account in regards to her discharge upgrade. Prior to the incident, she sought mental health assistance because she knew she needed to work on herself. She was diagnosed with PTSD and other mental health issues. She chose to neglect the diagnosis because she did not want to be considered as a defective Airmen when she was known to be the best and a hard worker, which she has regretted this poor decision. Since her discharge, she has constantly been working on her mental health, taken her medication and attended support groups. She has also continued to work in the healthcare field, volunteering in different areas of her community and is pursuing further education. She also notes that she is service connected for her PTSD & other mental health conditions.  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 her ineligible for Department of Veteran Affairs education benefits. However, this is not a matter of inequity or impropriety which would warrant an upgrade. The DRB took note of the applicant's duty performance as documented by her performance reports, awards and decorations, and other accomplishments. The DRB determined that, through the administrative actions taken by the chain of command in this case, the applicant had ample opportunities to change her negative behavior. It found the seriousness of the applicant’s willful misconduct offset the positive aspects of her service.  After a thorough review of the service record and inputs from the board’s psychiatrist/ psychologist, 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 xx Aug 17. 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) | |