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| **AIR FORCE DISCHARGE REVIEW BOARD DECISIONAL DOCUMENT** | CASE NUMBER FD-2020-00412 |
| GENERAL: The applicant was discharged on 02 Aug 2016 in accordance with AFI 36-3208 with a(n) General discharge for Misconduct (Drug Abuse). The applicant appealed for an upgrade of her discharge characterization to Honorable. The board was conducted on 30 Jul 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 *approve* 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 for signing a false official statement with intent to deceive.  Due to evidence of 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. She states that the characterization does not accurately reflect her service and that it was an isolated incident. She contends that her medical condition attributed to clinical depression and she chose to use an illegal substance as a form of relief. She also was led to believe that she was going to be medically discharged from the military but was re-classified. After she received care at her new duty station, she readily admitted her actions on her questionnaire and felt that it was the best course of action to acknowledge her lapse in judgement, as to not affect her future career advancement.  After a thorough review of the service record and input from the board’s psychiatrist/ psychologist, the DRB found that the applicant’s mental health condition was a mitigating factor to the applicant's misconduct.  CONCLUSION:  The board found neither the evidence of record, nor that provided by the applicant substantiated an impropriety. However, sufficient evidence existed to convince the board the discharge was inequitable due to quality of service and capability to serve. Therefore, the board determined the overall characterization of the applicant’s service was more accurately reflected by an Honorable discharge and narrative reason was more accurately described as “Secretarial Authority.” Additionally, the reenlistment eligibility code was changed to “2C.”  The DRB results were approved by the board president on 25 Aug 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) | |