

AIR FORCE DISCHARGE REVIEW BOARD DECISIONAL DOCUMENT

SUMMARY:

The applicant was discharged on 12 September 2016 in accordance with Department of Air Force Instruction 36-3208, *Administrative Separation of Airmen*, with an Entry Level Separation discharge for Adjustment Disorder and Convenience of the Government. The applicant appealed for an upgrade of her discharge characterization.

The applicant was not represented by counsel.

The applicant requested the board be completed based on a records only review. The Board was conducted on 07 December 2023.

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.

DISCUSSION: The Discharge Review Board (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 reentry 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 documentary evidence the Board considered as part of the review includes, but is not limited to the DD Form 293, *Application for the Review of Discharge from the Armed Forces of the United States*, and any additional documentation submitted by applicant and/or counsel; the applicant's personnel file from the Automated Records Management System (ARMS); and the DRB Brief detailing the applicant's service information and a summary of the case.

The applicant seeks an upgrade from an Entry Level Separation to an Honorable Discharge. Entry Level Separation typically applies to individuals who leave before completing 180-days of military service. However, the applicant's DD214 shows a service period exceeding 180-days, spanning from 15 Mar 2015 to 12 Sept 2015. Additionally, both the Notification Memorandum and the Recommendation for Discharge, received during separation, advocate for an Honorable Discharge as recommended by the Commander. The applicant states her performance during basic and technical training was above average, and she dedicated considerable time tutoring fellow airmen, contributing to their success on exams. Furthermore, the applicant underwent training to become a teal rope sexual assault advocate, showcasing a commitment to service and support. The applicant asserts that an Honorable Discharge is warranted based on her exemplary performance and the documented errors in the separation process.

The DRB found no impropriety or inequity in the discharge. Furthermore, the characterization the applicant received is appropriate for the circumstances. The Board wanted to highlight the member's 182 days of service; however, in accordance with the guidance outlined in AFI 36-3208 dated 24 June 2016, the determination of the member's status is based on the date of notification. Therefore, if the member is in entry-level status when the separation action is initiated, it should be described as an Entry Level Separation unless there are exceptional circumstances. The member received notification on 07 September 2021, which

was day 177. The initial recommendation for an “Honorable” discharge was rescinded and replaced with a notification recommending an Entry Level Separation.

The applicant requested her uncharacterized Entry Level Separation be upgraded to “Honorable.” However, this would violate current Air Force policy IAW AFI 36-3208, which states Airmen are in entry level status during the first 180-days of continuous active military service and if a separation action is initiated during this time, they will receive an entry level separation without service characterization. Therefore, the applicant’s request to “upgrade” to “Honorable” could not be approved.

Although the applicant did not request a change to the narrative reason, upgrading it is a presumptive grant because the Narrative Reason for Separation contains sensitive information (i.e., diagnostic disclosures) that are no longer used as of 2018. In accordance with the Under Secretary of Defense memorandum, Guidance to Military Discharge Review Boards and Boards for Correction of Military/Naval Records Regarding Equity, Injustice, or Clemency Determinations, dated 25 June 2018, the change to the Narrative Reason for Separation is appropriate based on a change in policy.

Should the applicant wish to appeal this decision, the applicant must request a personal appearance before this Board before applying for relief to the Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records (AFBCMR). In accordance with DAFI 36-2603, *Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records*, all applicants before the AFBCMR must first exhaust available administrative avenues of relief before applying to the AFBCMR, otherwise their AFBCMR case will be administratively closed until such time that the applicant avails themselves of the available avenue of relief. Therefore, should the applicant wish to appeal this decision, they must first exercise their right to make a personal appearance before the AFDRB.

CONCLUSION: After a thorough review of the available evidence, to include the Applicant’s issues, summary of service, service/medical record entries, and discharge process, the Board found the discharge was proper and equitable. Therefore, the awarded characterization of service shall remain “Entry Level Separation,” the narrative reason for separation shall change to “Condition, not a disability,” and the reentry code shall remain “2C”. The Air Force DRB (AFDRB) results were approved by the Presiding Officer on 21 December 2023. 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

Instructions on how to appeal an AFDRB decision can be found at <https://afrbportal.azurewebsites.us>

Attachment:
Examiner's Brief (Applicant Only)