

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 7 February 2025

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240006156

APPLICANT REQUESTS: an upgrade of his uncharacterized discharged to honorable

APPLICANT'S SUPPORTING DOCUMENT(S) CONSIDERED BY THE BOARD:

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- Illinois Army National Guard (ILARNG) Officer Candidate School (OCS) Completion Certificate, 29 August 1999
- Defense Finance and Accounting Service Letter, 11 March 2024
- DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty), date ending 5 February 2002 and 15 October 2002.

FACTS:

1. The applicant did not file within the 3-year time frame provided in Title 10, U.S. Code, section 1552(b); however, the Army Board for Correction of Military Records (ABCMR) conducted a substantive review of this case and determined it is in the interest of justice to excuse the applicant's failure to timely file.
2. The applicant states the "Uncharacterized" discharge from bootcamp, or entry level training is affecting her current federal employment calculation of all time served on "active duty" status. She successfully completed bootcamp in 1998, OCS in 1999 and Army Aviation Training in 2002. The uncharacterized designation has prevented her federal employer from accurately calculating all active-duty time served. She included a letter from DFAS to substantiate the request.
3. The applicant provides the following documents:
 - a. A copy of her OCS Completion Certificate showing she successfully completed the ILARNG OCS, Class 43-98 on 29 August 1999.
 - b. A copy of a letter from DFAS requesting the applicant provide legible DD Form 214(s) or other acceptable documents with character of service and time lost for the earlier Navy service dates. The current copy provided was not legible.

Additionally, unable to process Army DD Form 214 ending 97-98 with uncharacterized character of service.

c. A copy of her DD Form 214 ending 5 February 1998, showing completion of basic training identifying she character of service, uncharacterized.

d. A copy of her DD Form 214 ending 15 October 2002, showing in block #14 (Military Education) completion of the following:

- Aviation Officer Basic Course, 6 weeks, 2002
- Initial Entry Rotary Wing Course, 36 weeks, 2002
- UH60 Aviation Qualification Course, 6 weeks, 2002

4. A review of the applicant's service record shows:

a. The available service is void the enlistment contract in the ILARNG. However, her DD Form 214 ending 5 February 1998, indicates she successfully completed basic training and she character of service is listed as uncharacterized.

b. On 29 August 1999, the applicant completed OCS at the 2nd General Studies Battalion 129th Regiment (RTI). The available service record is void documents showing the transition from enlisted to OCS.

c. Special Orders 115 announced the applicant received federal recognition in the ILARNG as a 2nd Lieutenant, effective 25 May 2000.

d. DA Form 1059 (Service School Academic Evaluation Report) shows the applicant successfully completed the following:

- Aviation Officer Basic Course, 02-09 on 26 July 2002.
- UH-60 Aviator Qualification course 02-26 on 11 October 2002

e. Prepared on 14 July 2004, the applicant received a copy of her National Guard Bureau (NGB) Form 23B, that shows her points earned toward retirement, beginning date 30 July 1992 to 17 Oct 2003.

f. On 30 March 2004, orders 090-123 show she was discharged from ILARNG with honorable of service.

5. By regulation (AR 15-185), the ABCMR is not an investigative body and decides cases based on the evidence that is presented in the military records provided and the independent evidence submitted with the application. The applicant has the burden of proving an error or injustice by a preponderance of the evidence.

6. By regulation (AR 635-5), the DD Form 214 is a summary of the Soldier's most recent period of continuous active duty. It provides a brief, clear-cut record of all current active, prior active, and prior inactive duty service at the time of release from active duty, retirement, or discharge. The information entered thereon reflects the conditions as they existed at the time of separation.

BOARD DISCUSSION:

After reviewing the application, all supporting documents, and the evidence found within the military record, the Board found that relief was warranted. The Board carefully considered the applicant's record of service, documents submitted in support of the petition and executed a comprehensive and standard review based on law, policy and regulation. In accordance with Army regulatory guidance, a Soldier who successfully completes initial entry training and subsequently serves honorably in a Reserve Component may be eligible for an upgrade of an uncharacterized discharge to honorable. Upon review of the applicant's request and available military records, the Board determined there is sufficient evidence to upgrade the applicant's character of service to honorable. Evidence shows the applicant successfully completed basic training, as reflected on her DD Form 214 ending 5 February 1998. Based upon regulatory guidance, the Board agreed the applicant's DD Form 214 should show her character of service as Honorable.

BOARD VOTE:

Mbr 1 Mbr 2 Mbr 3

XXX	XXX	XXX	GRANT FULL RELIEF
:	:	:	GRANT PARTIAL RELIEF
:	:	:	GRANT FORMAL HEARING
:	:	:	DENY APPLICATION

BOARD DETERMINATION/RECOMMENDATION:

The Board determined the evidence presented is sufficient to warrant a recommendation for relief. As a result, the Board recommends that all Department of the Army records of the individual concerned be corrected by reissuing the applicant a DD Form 214 showing her characterization of service as honorable.

X //SIGNED//

CHAIRPERSON

I certify that herein is recorded the true and complete record of the proceedings of the Army Board for Correction of Military Records in this case.

REFERENCES:

1. Title 10, U.S. Code, section 1552(b), provides that applications for correction of military records must be filed within 3 years after discovery of the alleged error or injustice. This provision of law also allows the ABCMR to excuse an applicant's failure to timely file within the 3-year statute of limitations if the ABCMR determines it would be in the interest of justice to do so.
2. Army Regulation 15-185 (ABCMR) prescribes the policies and procedures for correction of military records by the Secretary of the Army, acting through the ABCMR. The ABCMR begins its consideration of each case with the presumption of administrative regularity, which is that what the Army did was correct. The ABCMR is not an investigative body and decides cases based on the evidence that is presented in the military records provided and the independent evidence submitted with the application. The applicant has the burden of proving an error or injustice by a preponderance of the evidence.
3. Army Regulation 635-200 (Active Duty Enlisted Administrative Separations), in effect at the time, sets forth the basic authority for the separation of enlisted personnel.
 - a. Paragraph 3-7a (Honorable Discharge) states an honorable discharge is a separation with honor. The honorable characterization is appropriate when the quality of the member's service generally has met, the standards of acceptable conduct and performance of duty for Army personnel or is otherwise so meritorious that any other characterization would be clearly inappropriate.

b. Paragraph 3-9 (Uncharacterized Discharge) states a separation will be described as entry-level with service uncharacterized if processing is initiated while a Soldier is in entry-level status.

4. Army Regulation 635-5 (Separation Documents), in effect at the time, states the DD Form 214 is a summary of the Soldier's most recent period of continuous active duty. It provides a brief, clear-cut record of all current active, prior active, and prior inactive duty service at the time of release from active duty, retirement, or discharge. The information entered thereon reflects the conditions as they existed at the time of separation.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//