

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD DISCHARGE REVIEW BOARD

Docket Number: 2016-017

Discharge Issued

Character: Honorable

Narrative Reason: Alcohol Rehabilitation Failure

SPD/RE Code: JPD / RE4

Authority of Discharge: COMDTINST M1000.4, ART 1-B-17

Date of Separation: 2013-05-28

DRB Decision

Character: No Change

Narrative Reason: No Change

SPD/RE Code: No Change / No Change

New Authority: No Change

Discharge Review Board Discussion and Decision:

DISCUSSION:

The applicant was discharged for Alcohol Rehabilitation Failure. The applicant was notified of the intent to discharge, and the applicant was advised of the right to an attorney. The applicant waived making a statement on their behalf and did not object to the discharge.

The Board notes the refusal by the applicant to attend an alcohol treatment program after a medical diagnosis determined alcohol dependency. However, the board by a majority vote (4-1) points out that without an alcohol incident to broker the JPD (Alcohol Rehabilitation Failure) mechanism, the elements are not fully met for said Narrative Reason (NR) for discharge.

The minority vote (1-4) has no issues with propriety or equity; the discharge should stand as issued.

The Majority Board vote recommends amending the NR to Failure to Complete a course of Instruction. The applicant refused to meet a condition of employment which is better aligned with a separation under Convenience of the government. The applicant had just been awarded NJP. The refusal for treatment was due to a separate alcohol dependent medical diagnosis (referred by the command) in the absence of an alcohol-related incident. The Board found the NR issued to be excessive.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Board members thoroughly reviewed the applicant's record of service and all available documentation. The Board deemed that the applicant's character of service and reenlistment code is appropriate and should not be changed.

In reviewing discharges, the Board presumes regularity in the conduct of governmental affairs unless there is substantial credible evidence (to include evidence submitted by the Applicant) to rebut the presumption.