

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD DISCHARGE REVIEW BOARD
Docket #: 2024-022

Discharge Issued

Character: Uncharacterized

Narrative Reason: Physical Standards

SPD/RE Code: JFT / RE3

Authority of Discharge: COMDTINST M1000.4. ART 1. B. 19

Date of Separation: 2018-03-23

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:

ISSUES: The applicant seeks an upgrade to their discharge character of service, separation code, reentry code, and narrative reason for separation. The applicant re-entered the Coast Guard after a break in service, previously serving for four years. The applicant states that they failed the sit-up portion of the physical fitness test twice, the second time by one sit-up. The applicant states that following the failed physical fitness test, they were immediately processed for discharge. The applicant states that it pains them to see their second DD214 with an uncharacterized discharge after receiving an honorable discharge for their first enlistment. The applicant makes no claims of impropriety or inequity in their application. Pursuant to 33 CFR §51.7(a), a discharge is presumed to be equitable unless the applicant submits sufficient evidence to establish that it is not, in accordance with 33 CFR §51.7(a)(1), (a)(2), and (a)(3). As a result, the Board has only examined whether there was an impropriety in separating the applicant under COMDTINST M1000.4 Article 1.B.19.

DISCUSSION: The applicant was discharged due to failed physical fitness standards after failing the sit-up portion of the physical fitness test on two separate occasions. The applicant was enrolled in an accelerated accession program and was given the opportunity to enroll in the full eight-week training course in order to stay in the Coast Guard. Command noted the applicant decline to be placed in the eight-week program stating that they “didn’t want it that bad.” The command acknowledged that the applicant had only failed by one sit-up citing “we could have kept [the applicant] but unwillingness to train doesn’t bode well.”

The applicant was processed for discharge for failed physical standards owing to the inability to successfully complete the standardized physical fitness test and in accordance with COMDTINST M1000.4 Article 1.B.19. They were advised of the ability to continue training in the full eight-week program but declined to continue training. The applicant was subsequently recommended for discharge due to demonstrating unsuitability by not meeting the required baseline for physical fitness to begin the

rigors of training. The applicant ultimately received an Uncharacterized discharge with a narrative reason of Physical Standards, an SPD code of JFT, and a reentry code of RE3.

The Board examined the applicant's separation under COMDTINST M1000.4 Article 1.B.19 for physical standards and found no errors of fact, law, discretion, or procedure. In accordance with COMDTINST M1000.4 Article 1.B.19.a, uncharacterized discharges are authorized for all members separated while in an entry level status. COMDTINST M1000.4 Article 1.B.19.b(1)(b) states that members may be discharged under this article for failing to complete established physical fitness standards. While the applicant did have four years of prior honorable service, due to the extended break in service (seven years), they were considered to be in an entry-level status. COMDTINST M1000.4 Article 1.B.1.f(15) defines "entry-level" for prior-service enlistees as those who accumulated fewer than 180 days of active service after a break of more than 92 days following their prior military service. As such, the applicant was classified as an entry-level member and was properly awarded an Uncharacterized discharge characterization in accordance with COMDTINST M1000.4 Article 1.B.19. The Separation Program Designator (SPD) code, reentry code, and narrative were all properly awarded in accordance with the SPD Handbook. An RE3 reentry code signifies the applicant is still eligible to reenlist except for a disqualifying factor, requiring a waiver for said condition. There have been no relevant policy changes made expressly retroactive to this type of discharge and the applicant has not made any inequity claims.

RECOMMENDATION: The Board members thoroughly reviewed the applicant's record of service and all available documentation. The Board deemed that the applicant's discharge characterization, separation code, reentry code, and narrative reason are appropriate and should not be changed. The applicant has not substantiated any error or inequity.

Propriety: Discharge was proper.

Equity: Discharge was equitable.

Board Conclusion: The Board voted 4-0 for NO RELIEF

² 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.