

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS  
PHYSICAL DISABILITY BOARD OF REVIEW

NAME: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
BRANCH OF SERVICE: AIR FORCE

CASE: PD-2022-00025  
SEPARATION DATE: 20050128

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**SUMMARY OF CASE:** Data extracted from the available evidence of record reflects this covered individual (CI) was an active duty E4, Pavements and Construction Journeyman, medically separated for “asthma” with a disability rating of 10%.

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**CI CONTENTION:** Requested a higher rating due to the severity of his condition. The complete submission is at Exhibit A.

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**SCOPE OF REVIEW:** The panel’s scope of review is defined in DoDI 6040.44. It is limited to review of disability ratings assigned to those conditions determined by the Physical Evaluation Board (PEB) to be unfitting for continued military service, and when specifically requested by the CI, those conditions identified by the Medical Evaluation Board (MEB), but determined by the PEB to be not unfitting or non-compensable. Any conditions outside the panel’s defined scope of review, and any contention not requested in this application, may remain eligible for future consideration by the Board for Correction of Military Records. The panel’s authority is limited to assessing the fairness and accuracy of PEB rating determinations and recommending corrections when appropriate. The panel gives consideration to VA evidence, particularly within 12 months of separation, but only to the extent that it reasonably reflects the severity of disability at the time of separation.

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**RATING COMPARISON:**

SERVICE PEB - 20040714			VARD - 20050706			
Condition	Code	Rating	Condition	Code	Rating	Exam
Asthma	6602	10%	Asthma	6602	30%	20050420
<b>COMBINED RATING: 10%</b>			<b>COMBINED RATING OF ALL VA CONDITIONS: 40%</b>			

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**ANALYSIS SUMMARY:**

**Asthma.** According to the service treatment record (STR) and MEB narrative summary (NARSUM), the CI’s asthma began in 2002 with a history of mild shortness of breath, chest tightness, wheezing, and cough. He was started on an albuterol inhaler which provided some relief. In February 2004, a methacholine challenge was positive for asthma.

The 15 June 2004 MEB NARSUM examination, 7 months prior to separation, noted that the CI was taking albuterol (inhalational bronchodilator) as needed, and fluticasone (inhalational steroid) twice a day. Review of the STR showed one clinical encounter in evidence documenting the use of an oral or parenteral (injection) steroid for asthma during the year prior to separation. There was no evidence that asthma exacerbations were frequent enough to require monthly visits to a physician. At the 20 April 2005 VA Compensation and Pension (C&P) examination, 3 months after separation, the examiner did not list any medications taken by the CI.

The panel directed attention to its rating recommendation based on the above evidence. The PEB rated the asthma 10%, coded 6602 (asthma), citing DoD and VASRD guidelines. Even

though the C&P examiner did not mention any asthma medications, the VA rated the asthma 30%, also coded 6602, for daily albuterol use, as cited on the 6 July 2005 VA rating decision. A 30% rating stipulates “FEV-1 of 56- to 70-percent predicted, or; FEV-1/FVC of 56 to 70 percent, or; daily inhalational or oral bronchodilator therapy, or; inhalational anti-inflammatory medication.” Panel members agreed that the STR evidence documented current prescriptions for daily bronchodilators and inhaled anti-inflammatories, which met the VASRD §4.97 threshold for a 30% rating. A 60% rating was not justified in the absence of at least monthly visits to a physician for required care of exacerbations, intermittent (at least three per year) courses of systemic corticosteroids, or pulmonary function test evidence. After due deliberation, considering all the evidence and mindful of VASRD §4.3 (reasonable doubt), the panel recommends a disability rating of 30% for the asthma, coded 6602.

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**BOARD FINDINGS:** In the matter of the asthma, the panel recommends a disability rating of 30%, coded 6602 IAW VASRD §4.97. There are no other conditions within the panel’s scope of review for consideration.

The panel recommends the CI’s prior determination be modified as follows; and, that the discharge with severance pay be re-characterized to reflect permanent disability retirement, effective the date of medical separation:

<b>CONDITION</b>	<b>VASRD CODE</b>	<b>PERMANENT RATING</b>
Asthma	6602	30%

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The following documentary evidence was considered:

- Exhibit A. DD Form 294, dated 20220329, w/atchs
- Exhibit B. Service Treatment Record
- Exhibit C. Department of Veterans Affairs Record

SAF/MRB  
3351 CELMERS LANE  
JBA NAF WASHINGTON, MD 20762-6435

Dear XXXXXX:

Reference your application submitted under the provisions of DoDI 6040.44 (Section 1554, 10 USC), PDBR Case Number PD-2022-00025.

After careful consideration of your application and treatment records, the Physical Disability Board of Review determined that the rating assigned at the time of final disposition of your disability evaluation system processing was not in accordance with the guidelines of the Veterans Affairs Schedule for Rating Disabilities. Accordingly, the Board recommended your separation be re-characterized to reflect disability retirement, rather than separation with severance pay

I have carefully reviewed the evidence of record and the recommendation of the Board. I concur with that finding, accept the recommendation and determined that your records should be corrected accordingly. The office responsible for making the correction will inform you when your records have been changed.

As a result of the aforementioned correction, you are entitled by law to elect coverage under the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP). Upon receipt of this letter, you must contact the Air Force Personnel Center via email at [AFPC.SBP@US.AF.MIL](mailto:AFPC.SBP@US.AF.MIL) to make arrangements to obtain an SBP briefing prior to rendering an election. If a valid election is not received within 90 days from the date of this letter, you will not be enrolled in the SBP program unless at the time of your separation, you were married, in such a case, failure to render an election will result in automatic enrollment by law.

The office responsible for making the correction will inform you when your records have been changed. Corrected documents will involve a retirement order to place you on the retired rolls by reason of physical disability and, if appropriate, a new DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty. Once you receive these documents, you may proceed to the nearest military personnel facility to obtain a military identification card for you and any eligible dependents.

If you require assistance for matters not involving military pay actions, please contact the AF Total Force Service Center at 800-525-0102. Any inquiry concerning your pay may be addressed to DFAS – Indianapolis Center, Department 3300 (ATTN: Correction of Records/Claims), 8899 East 56th Street, Indianapolis IN 46249-3300.

Sincerely,