



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON DC

OCT 21 1998

Office of the *Assistant* Secretary

AFBCMR 97-02087

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF OF STAFF

Having received and considered the recommendation of the Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records and under the authority of Section 1552, Title 10, United States Code (70A Stat 116), it is directed that:

The pertinent military records of the Department of the Air Force relating to [REDACTED] be corrected to show that on 11 March 1996, he ~~was~~ discharged under the provisions of AFI 36-3208 by reason of "Secretarial Authority," with separation code "KFF."

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Joe G. Lineberger".

JOE G. LINEBERGER
Director
Air Force Review Boards Agency

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
AIR FORCE BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

OCT 21 1998

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: 97-02087

COUNSEL: NONE

HEARING DESIRED: NO

APPLICANT REQUESTS THAT:

The narrative reason for separation and his Reenlistment Eligibility (RE) code be changed so that he can reenlist.

APPLICANT CONTENDS THAT:

He believes that he was forced to accept a psychiatric discharge.

In support of his request, applicant provided his personal statement, documentation pertaining to his discharge, and statements submitted in his behalf from his recruiter and his high school principal. (Exhibit A)

STATEMENT OF FACTS:

On 7 February 1996, applicant enlisted in the Regular Air Force for a period of four years.

On 1 March 1996, applicant received a commander-directed mental health evaluation which established the diagnoses of Adjustment Disorder with Depressed Mood, and Status Post Ankle Strain. The Inpatient Staff Psychiatrist noted that applicant did not have a medically disqualifying psychiatric condition and that the disorder significantly impaired the applicant's ability to function in the military. He recommended an entry level separation.

On 5 March 1996, the squadron commander initiated administrative discharge action against the applicant for a condition that interfered with military service - mental disorders. Specifically, applicant was diagnosed by the Department of Mental Health as having a mental disorder which interfered with his duty performance and conduct and was severe enough that his ability to function in the military was significantly impaired. On the same date, applicant acknowledged receipt of the discharge notification and that military legal counsel was made available to him. He waived his option to consult counsel and his right to submit statements in his own behalf. The Staff Judge Advocate's Office found the case

file legally sufficient to support separation. On 6 March 1996, the discharge authority approved an entry level separation.

On 11 March 1996, applicant received an uncharacterized entry level separation by reason of personality disorder. He was issued an RE code of 2C (entry level separation without characterization of service).

AIR FORCE EVALUATION:

The BCMR Medical Consultant reviewed this application and recommended that the applicant's request be denied. However, he stated that the narrative reason for separation should be changed to "Secretarial Authority," Separation Program Designator (SPD) code KFF, as the current code does not accurately reflect the true mental diagnosis for which applicant was separated. We did not recommend that the applicant's RE code be changed. (Exhibit C)

The Programs and Procedures Branch, AFPC/DPPRS, reviewed the case for separation processing and found no errors or irregularities causing an injustice to the applicant. The discharge complies with directives in effect at the time of applicant's discharge. The records indicate applicant's military service was reviewed and appropriate action was taken.

DPPRS stated applicant did not identify any specific errors in the discharge processing nor provide facts which warrant a change in his reason for separation. However, noting the BCMR Medical Consultant's recommendation (Exhibit C), DPPRS had no objection to changing the narrative reason for separation and SPD code since the DOD Instructions make no provisions for a narrative reason of adjustment disorder. (Exhibit D)

The Directorate of Personnel Programs Management, AFPC/DPPAES, stated that while the narrative reason for separation was incorrect, applicant received an entry level separation, and the RE Code of 2C is correct. (Exhibit E)

APPLICANT'S REVIEW OF AIR FORCE EVALUATION:

The Air Force evaluations were forwarded to the applicant on 2 February 1998 for review and comment within 30 days. As of this date, no response has been received by this office.

THE BOARD CONCLUDES THAT:

1. The applicant has exhausted all remedies provided by existing law or regulations.

2. The application was timely filed.

3. Sufficient relevant evidence has been presented to demonstrate the existence of probable injustice. It appears that responsible officials applied appropriate standards in effecting applicant's discharge, and we do not find persuasive evidence that pertinent regulations were violated or that applicant was not afforded all the rights to which entitled at the time of discharge. Therefore, we do not believe favorable consideration of the applicant's stated requests would be appropriate on the basis of the evidence provided. Nevertheless, in view of the mitigating circumstances which led to his separation; i.e., his nervousness and the possibility of self-harm which impaired his ability to effectively function in the military, we believe some relief is appropriate in this case. The applicant received a commander-directed mental health evaluation when he expressed concerns of nervousness and the possibility that he might hurt himself. He was diagnosed as having an "Adjustment Disorder with Depressed Mood" not "Personality Disorder" as reflected in the narrative reason for separation. Based on careful consideration of the circumstances surrounding his discharge, we believe it would be an injustice for the applicant to continue to suffer the adverse effects of the narrative reason for discharge. We therefore agree with the recommendation of the BCMR Medical Consultant (Exhibit C) that the reason for separation should be changed as the current code does not accurately reflect the true mental health diagnosis for which he was separated. Since the governing directives do not provide for a narrative reason of "Adjustment Disorder," we recommend that the reason for separation be changed to "Secretarial Authority," with a corresponding separation code of "KFF."

4. While we are inclined to recommend changing the narrative reason for separation since it does not accurately reflect the mental health diagnosis which resulted in applicant's discharge, we are not persuaded that further relief is warranted in the form of changing the applicant's RE code to one that would allow him to reenlist. The applicant's RE code had its basis in his entry level separation because of conditions which interfered with his military service. After careful consideration of the evidence provided, we are not convinced that the applicant would now be able to successfully function in the highly structured military environment. Based on the foregoing, we do not find that the applicant's RE code is in error or unjust. Therefore, his request for a change of his RE code is not favorably considered.

THE BOARD RECOMMENDS THAT:


The pertinent military records of the Department of the Air Force relating to APPLICANT, be corrected to show that on 11 March 1996, he was discharged under the provisions of AFI 36-3208 by reason of "Secretarial Authority," with separation code "KFF."

The following members of the Board considered this application in Executive Session on 15 September 1998, under the provisions of AFI 36-2603:

Mrs. Barbara A. Westgate, Panel Chair
Mr. Allen Beckett, Member
Mr. Henry Romo Jr., Member

All members voted to correct the records, as recommended. The following documentary evidence was considered:

- Exhibit A. DD Form 149, dated 7 Jul 97, w/atchs.
- Exhibit B. Applicant's Master Personnel Records.
- Exhibit C. Letter, BCMR Medical Consultant, dated 3 Nov 97.
- Exhibit D. Letter, AFPC/DPPRS, dated 30 Dec 97.
- Exhibit E. Letter, AFPC/DPPAES, dated 6 Jan 98.
- Exhibit F. Letter, SAF/MIBR, dated 2 Feb 98.


BARBARA A. WESTGATE
Panel Chair

3 Nov 97
97-02087

MEMORANDUM FOR AFBCMR

FROM: BCMR Medical Consultant
1535 Command Drive, EE Wing, 3rd Floor
Andrews AFB MD 20762-7002

SUBJECT: Application for Correction of Military Records


Applicant's entire case file has been reviewed and is forwarded with the following findings, conclusions and recommendations.

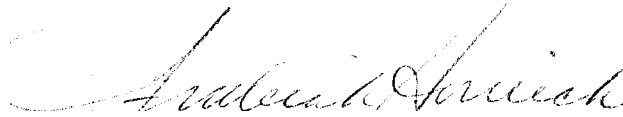
REQUESTED ACTION: The applicant received an entry level separation under the provisions of AFPD 36-32 and AFI 36-3208, Para. 5.11.1 on 11 Mar 96 after 1 month and 4 days of basic military training. He applies now for a change in his reason for separation and of his reenlistment code that would allow him to return to military service.

FACTS: The records indicate the applicant was administratively separated following a diagnosis of Adjustment Disorder with Depressed Mood, DSM-IV (309.0). Mental health evaluation was commander directed after the applicant was in basic training for only a short period of time and after he had made statements regarding his nervousness and possibility of self-harm. Records show that applicant was given full administrative and legal consideration of the pending action and waived his right to counsel or to submit statements on his behalf. Details of the mental health evaluation are missing from the records available for review, but the diagnosis is noted. Action and disposition in this case are proper and reflect compliance with Air Force directives which implement the law.

DISCUSSION: Individuals are considered in an entry level status for the first 6 months of service and any separation which occurs during this period of time will receive an "uncharacterized entry level separation." While it is recognized and appreciated that the applicant made special efforts to render himself eligible for acceptance into the Air Force, the fact that he was unable to cope with the rigors of basic training was the proximate cause for his entry level separation, and the resulting codes were administratively, if not clinically, appropriate for the circumstances. It is clear from review of records that his separation was in compliance with directives that support the law and that no error or injustice occurred in this case.

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RECOMMENDATION: The Medical Consultant is of the opinion that the applicant's request should be denied. The narrative reason for his separation, however, should be changed to: Secretarial Authority, SPD Code KFF, as the current code does not accurately reflect the true mental health diagnosis for which he was separated. It is recommended that this change be made in block 28 of DD Form 214 but that no change in his RE code should be made.



FREDERICK W. HORNICK, Col., USAF, MC, FS
Chief Medical Consultant, AFBCMR
Medical Advisor SAF Personnel Council

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER
RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE TEXAS



DEC 30 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR AFBCMR

FROM: HQ AFPC/DPPRS
550 C Street West Ste 11
Randolph AFB TX 78150-4713

SUBJECT: Application for Correction of Military Records [REDACTED]

The applicant, while serving in the grade of airman basic, was separated from the Air Force 11 Mar 96 under the provisions of AFI 36-3208 (Entry level Separation/Personality Disorder) with an uncharacterized discharge. He served 01 month 04 days total active service.

Requested Action. The applicant is requesting a change in his reason for separation in order for him to be eligible to reenlist in the Air Force.


Basis for Request. Applicant claims the fault in his discharge lies in medical hold where he was harassed by E-3s and E-2s who thought they were the boss and yelled and harassed him till the breaking point. The advisory from the BCMR Medical Consultant, 03 Nov 97 provides information concerning applicant's medical condition at the time of his separation. This advisory will address only the discharge processing in the case.

Facts. The applicant was notified by his commander on 05 Mar 96, that discharge action had been initiated against **him** for a mental disorder. The commander advised that the discharge action was being taken because he had been diagnosed by the Wilford Hall Medical Center as having an adjustment disorder and depressed mood, for which are so severe that his ability to function effectively in the military environment is significantly impaired. He was advised he had a right to consult counsel and the right to submit statements in his own behalf. Applicant did not submit statements and waived his right to military counsel. The discharge case was reviewed by the base legal office and was found to be legally sufficient to support separation. On 06 Mar 96, the discharge authority approved the Entry Level Separation. Airmen are given an uncharacterized service characterization when separation action is initiated against them in the first 180 days of continuous active service, and the separation is described as entry level separation.

Discussion. This case has been reviewed for separation processing and there are no errors or irregularities causing an injustice to the applicant. The discharge complies with directives in effect at the time of his discharge. The records indicate member's military service was reviewed and appropriate action was taken.

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Recommendation. Applicant did not identify any specific errors in the discharge processing nor provide facts which warrant a change in his reason for separation. However, the BCMR Medical Consultant's recommendation to change his narrative reason for separation to "Secretarial Authority" and SPD code change to "KFF" with the rationale given, we have no objection to the change of the narrative reason for separation and SPD code since the DOD Instructions makes no provision for a narrative reason of adjustment disorder. He has filed a timely request.



Military Personnel Mgmt Spec
Programs and Procedures Branch
Dir of Personnel Program Management

9702087



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER
RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE TEXAS

106 JAN 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR AFBCMR

FROM: HQ AFPC/DPPAES
550 C Street West Ste 10
Randolph AFB TX 78150-4712

SUBJECT: Application for Correction of Record - [REDACTED]

A review of applicant's case file was conducted. While the narrative reason for separation was incorrect, applicant received an entry level separation, and the Reenlistment Eligibility (RE) Code "2C" is correct.

[REDACTED] USAF
Special Programs and BCMR Manager
Dir of Personnel Program Management

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