

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS  
AIR FORCE BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

IN THE MATTER OF: DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2012-00664  
COUNSEL: NONE  
HEARING DESIRED: NO

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APPLICANT REQUESTS THAT:

His narrative reason for separation be changed to read a temporary mental disability rather than personality disorder.

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APPLICANT CONTENDS THAT:

The applicant did not provide any contentions.

In support of his appeal, the applicant provides a copy of his DD Form 214, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*.

The applicant's complete submission, with attachment, is at Exhibit A.

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STATEMENT OF FACTS:

On 25 Jul 00, the applicant contracted his enlistment in the Regular Air Force.

On 27 Nov 00, the applicant's commander notified him that he was recommending his discharge from the Air Force for Mental Disorder. The specific reason for the discharge action was the diagnosis by Behavioral Analysis Service (BAS) with a Phase of Life Problem, Bereavement. BAS determined the applicant did not meet the standards for continued military service and that his ability to function in the military was significantly impaired.

His commander advised him of his rights in this matter; and on 14 Dec 00, the applicant acknowledged receipt of the notification, waived his right to consult with legal counsel or to submit a statement in his own behalf.

The legal office conducted a legal review and the staff judge advocate (SJA) found the case legally sufficient to support and recommend the applicant be furnished an entry level separation with uncharacterized service.

On 18 Dec 00, the discharge authority directed the applicant be furnished an entry-level separation and, on 21 Dec 00, the applicant was furnished an entry-level separation with uncharacterized service and a narrative reason for separation of "Personality Disorder." He was credited with 4 months and 27 days of total active service.

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AIR FORCE EVALUATION:

AFPC/DPSOR recommends denial noting the documentation in the applicant's master personnel records indicates the discharge, to include the narrative reason for separation, was consistent with the procedural and substantive requirements of the discharge instruction and was within the discretion of the discharge authority. The mental evaluation indicated the applicant did not have a severe mental disorder and was not considered mentally disordered. However, the severe intensity of his grief-related symptoms precluded him from functioning in a military environment. Although the applicant may be coping well in his civilian capacity, it does not change the basis for which he was discharged. The military environment is unique and the stressors encountered in this environment may not appear or surface when removed from the military environment. Airmen are given an entry-level separation when separation is initiated in the first 180 days of continuous active service. The Department of Defense (DoD) determined if a service member served less than 180 days of continuous active service, it would be unfair to the service member or the service to characterize their limited service.

The complete AFPC/DPSOR evaluation is at Exhibit C.

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APPLICANT REVIEW OF AIR FORCE EVALUATION:

A copy of the Air Force evaluation was forwarded to the applicant on 26 Jul 12 for review and comment within 30 days. As of this date, no response has been received by this office (Exhibit F).

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THE BOARD CONCLUDES THAT:

1. The applicant has exhausted all remedies provided by existing law or regulations.
2. The application was not timely filed; however, it is in the interest of justice to excuse the failure to timely file.
3. Sufficient relevant evidence has been presented to demonstrate the existence of an injustice. The evidence of record indicates the separation action taken against the

applicant was in accordance with the applicable instruction and within the commander's discretionary authority. However, we note that at the time of the applicant's separation, the Department of Defense (DoD) categorized unsuiting mental conditions under the broad heading of "personality disorder." Therefore, if an individual was separated with an unsuiting mental condition, "personality disorder" would be listed on the DD Form 214 as the narrative reason for separation. However, DoD has since adjusted its policy such that mental conditions are no longer listed under one broad heading of personality disorder. Based on the evidence of record, the applicant was diagnosed with a Phase of Life Problem and Bereavement, and not a personality disorder. Although action and disposition of the applicant's case appears to be in compliance with the Air Force directives in effect at the time of his entry-level separation, we believe it would be an injustice for the applicant to continue to suffer the stigma of such a characterization. Therefore, we recommend his records be corrected as indicated below.

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THE BOARD RECOMMENDS THAT:

The pertinent military records of the Department of the Air Force relating to the APPLICANT be corrected to show that he was issued a narrative reason for separation of "Secretarial Authority" and a separation program designator (SPD) code of "KFF" in conjunction with his 21 December 2000 entry-level separation with uncharacterized service."

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The following members of the Board considered AFBCMR Docket Number BC-2012-00664 in Executive Session on 20 Nov 12, under the provisions of AFI 36-2603:

Chair  
Member  
Member

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

- Exhibit A. DD Form 149, dated 22 Mar 12, w/atch.
- Exhibit B. Applicant's Master Military Personnel Records.
- Exhibit C. Letter, AFPC/DPSOR, dated 11 Jul 12.
- Exhibit D. Letter, SAF/MRBR, dated 26 Jul 12.

Chair