

**AIR FORCE DISCHARGE REVIEW BOARD HEARING RECORD**

<b>NAME OF SERVICE MEMBER (LAST, FIRST MIDDLE INITIAL)</b> [REDACTED]	<b>GRADE</b> AIC	<b>AFSN/SSAN</b> [REDACTED]
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<b>TYPE GEN</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>PERSONAL APPEARANCE</b>	<b>RECORD REVIEW</b>
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<b>COUNSEL</b>	<b>NAME OF COUNSEL AND OR ORGANIZATION</b>	<b>ADDRESS AND OR ORGANIZATION OF COUNSEL</b>
YES NO	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
X		

<b>MEMBERS SITTING</b>	<b>VOICE OF THE BOARD</b>				
	HON	GEN	UOTHC	OTHER	DENY
[REDACTED]	X+				
[REDACTED]	X+				
[REDACTED]	X+				
[REDACTED]	X				
[REDACTED]	X				

<b>ISSUES</b> A93.09, A93.33, A94.06, A01.31	<b>INDEX NUMBER</b> A 67.10	<b>EXHIBITS SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD</b>		
		1	ORDER APPOINTING THE BOARD	
		2	APPLICATION FOR REVIEW OF DISCHARGE	
		3	LETTER OF NOTIFICATION	
<b>HEARING DATE</b> 021303	<b>CASE NUMBER</b> FD2002-0339	4	BRIEF OF PERSONNEL FILE	
			COUNSEL'S RELEASE TO THE BOARD	
			ADDITIONAL EXHIBITS SUBMITTED AT TIME OF PERSONAL APPEARANCE	
			TAPE RECORDING OF PERSONAL APPEARANCE HEARING	

APPLICANT'S ISSUE AND THE BOARD'S DECISIONAL RATIONALE ARE DISCUSSED ON THE ATTACHED AIR FORCE DISCHARGE REVIEW BOARD DECISIONAL RATIONALE.

**REMARKS**

Case heard at Washington, D.C.

+ Change reason for discharge to "Secretarial Authority"

The AFDRB determined the applicant's reenlistment (RE) code will not be changed. The applicant can still apply for a waiver from the branch of service he wishes to join or apply to the AFBCMR.

<b>SIGNATURE OF RECORDER</b> [REDACTED]	<b>SIGNATURE OF BOARD PRESIDENT</b> [REDACTED]
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<b>INDORSEMENT</b>	<b>DATE: 021803</b>
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<b>TO:</b> SAF/MIBR 550 C STREET WEST, SUITE 40 RANDOLPH AFB, TX 78150-4742	<b>FROM:</b> SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE PERSONNEL COUNCIL AIR FORCE DISCHARGE REVIEW BOARD 1535 COMMAND DR, EE WING, 3 <sup>RD</sup> FLOOR ANDREWS AFB, MD 20762-7002
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**AIR FORCE DISCHARGE REVIEW BOARD DECISIONAL RATIONALE**

CASE NUMBER

FD2002-0339

**GENERAL:** The applicant appeals for an upgrade of his general discharge to honorable. The applicant and his father appeared and testified before the Board, with counsel, at Andrews AFB, MD, on February 13, 2003.

The applicant submitted a brief which contained the following items: an extract from DoD Directive 1332.28, a letter of appreciation from [REDACTED]; character letters from the following individuals: [REDACTED]; two statements from [REDACTED], the applicant's personal statement, Newspaper clippings from the 14 and 16 Oct 02 editions of the St Louis Post-Dispatch; an extract from AFI 44-121; and copies of the following DRB cases: FD-99-00386, FD-00-00302; FD-00-00204; FD-00-00084; FD-00-00189; FD-99-00099; FD-99-00369-A and FD-01-00012.

The attached brief contains the available pertinent data on the applicant, the factors leading to the discharge, and the issues he submitted for review.

**FINDINGS:** The applicant's request to change the characterization of his discharge to honorable is granted. The DRB changed the narrative reason for the applicant's separation from "misconduct" to "Secretarial Authority." While the DRB could not find (and the applicant conceded) there was no impropriety in the administrative processing of his discharge, the DRB did find the characterization of his discharge to be inequitable.

**Issue:** The applicant contends that his overall service record is more deserving of a fully honorable discharge rather than the general under honorable conditions discharge he received. The applicant pointed out that he served over 4 years with an unblemished record with the exception of a 17-day period when he was about 2 months away from completing his term of service. During that period, the respondent was late for two appointments, was drunk and disorderly, made an obscene phone call to a superior officer, and failed to promptly pay the balance on his government credit card. After a thorough and complete consideration of the information provided by the applicant, the applicant's compelling testimony, and the information contained in the record, the DRB concluded there were sufficient extenuating and mitigating circumstances to substantiate an upgrade to the applicant's discharge. The DRB noted, however, the applicant's record of declining duty performance throughout his four years of service. This record, coupled with the misconduct noted above, convinced the DRB that a change to his re-enlistment code would not be appropriate. Though not requested by the applicant, the DRB also decided that it was appropriate to change the narrative reason for discharge from "misconduct" to the more favorable "Secretarial Authority."

None of the applicant's remaining issues will be addressed as their resolution in the applicant's favor would not result in greater relief than is being afforded by the Board.

The Board also reviewed and considered the applicant's entire service record before making a decision.

**CONCLUSIONS:** The Board concludes the respondent's discharge characterization should be upgraded from general to honorable. The Board further concludes the narrative reason for the separations should be changed from "misconduct" to "Secretarial Authority."

Attachment:

Examiner's Brief

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
AIR FORCE DISCHARGE REVIEW BOARD  
ANDREWS AFB, MD

FD2002-0339

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] (Former A1C) (HGH SRA) (REHEARING)

1. MATTER UNDER REVIEW: Appl rec'd a Gen Dish fr USAF 98/10/08 UP AFI 36-3208, para 5.49 (Misconduct - Minor Disciplinary Infractions). Appeals for Honorable Discharge.

2. OTHER FACTS:

a. See attached cy of Examiner's Brief dtd 00/03/02.

b. The AFDRB reviewed case on 00/03/31 (non-appearance w/o counsel) & concluded applicant's discharge should not be changed.

3. BASIS ADVANCED FOR REHEARING: Appl (DD Fm 293) dtd 02/08/06. (Change Discharge to Honorable).

ISSUES ATTACHED TO BRIEF.

Atch

1. Examiner's Brief, 00/03/02.
2. Applicant's Issues.
3. Letter of Appreciation.
4. Character Reference.

02/09/04/ai

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
AIR FORCE DISCHARGE REVIEW BOARD  
ANDREWS AFB, MD

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
(Former A1C)

1. **MATTER UNDER REVIEW:** Appl rec'd a GEN Disch fr USAF 98/10/08 UP AFI 36-3208, para 5.49 (Misconduct - Minor Disciplinary Infractions). Appeals for Hon Disch.

2. **BACKGROUND:**

a. DOB: 76/04/01. Enlmt Age: 17 6/12. Disch Age: 22 6/12. Educ: HS DIPL. AFQT: N/A A-72, E-50, G-44, M-79. PAFSC: 3P051 - Security Journeyman. DAS: 98/04/06.

b. Prior Sv: AFRes 93/10/23 - 94/08/31 (10 months 9 days) (Inactive).

3. **SERVICE UNDER REVIEW:**

a. Enld as AB 94/09/01 for 4 yrs. Ext: 98/01/15 for 20 mos Ext: 98/02/23 for 11 mos. Svd: 4 Yrs 1 Mo 8 Das, all AMS.

b. Grade Status: A1C - 98/07/13 (ART 15, 98/07/13)  
SRA - 97/09/01  
A1C-(EPR Indicates): 94/09/01-96/04/30  
AMN-(EPR Indicates): 94/09/01-96/04/30

c. Time Lost: none.

d. Art 15's: (1) 98/07/13, Izmir ASN, Turkey - You were, o/a 25 Jun 98, drunk and disorderly which conduct was of a nature to bring discredit upon the armed forces. You did, o/a 25 Jun 98, orally communicate to Lt Col -----, certain indecent language, to wit: "You've been treating me like shit, and I'm sick of it. I don't give a fuck who your goddamn rank is. You can suck my dick because I'll go to fuckin' jail. I don't give a shit. I been drinking today. I don't care. I don't know what the hell you're thinking, man, but you been fuckin' pissing me off ever since I fuckin' met you, man. You know what? You can go to fuckin' hell. You are a jackass and I'm surprised not at all, that you have never fuckin' made Colonel." Rdn to A1C. (No appeal) (No mitigation).

e. Additional: LOR, 14 Jul 98 - Failure to pay just debt.  
LOR, 21 Jun 98 - Failure to go.  
LOR, 15 Jun 98 - Failure to go.

f. CM: none.

g. Record of SV: 94/09/01 96/04/30 Vance AFB 4 (Initial)

96/05/01 97/08/28 Vance AFB 4 (Annual)  
 97/08/29 98/02/27 Vance AFB 3 (CRO)  
 (Dishcharged from Izmir ASN)

h. Awards & Decs: AFOUA W/1 BOLC, AFLSAR, AFGCM, SAEMR W/1 BS, AFTR.

i. Stmt of Sv: TMS: (4) Yrs (11) Mos (16) Das  
 TAMS: (4) Yrs (1) Mos (8) Das

**4. BASIS ADVANCED FOR REVIEW:** Appln (DD Fm 293) dtd 99/10/27.  
 (Change Discharge to Honorable)

Issue 1: Document #4. I don't have my G.I. Bill, and still was not given the chance for rehabilitation. The Commander determined I don't want to be helped. I was declared an "Alcohol Dependent Person," yet they decided to let me out of the A.F. rather than help me when I asked for help.

Issue 2: Please notice the disturbing differences in the issues of GOV.---  
 ---- Card, as of the amount owed.

Issue 3: It is also to my belief the NCO who was in charge of me in my first couple of months in Turkey didn't like me. I believe there was some race motivation there. He told me he could get me kicked out of the A.F. if he wanted (this didn't seem possible at the time but because of all the paperwork I see it was).

Issue 4: I have never had this much trouble in all my military career and don't really understand how anyone can look at 2 months of someones (sic) life and end there coureer (sic). I was so dedicated to the military and tried my best. They let me down twice please don't let this happen again. I am only looking for an "honorable" discharge so that I can (1) go back to school. (2) Become a Police Officer and in the future an International Security Advisor." Thank you. This all happened in such a small amount of time, during my 4 year 1 month & 8 day term in service. Divorce and other problems in my personal life didn't help either.

ATCHS

1. Response to Nonjudicial Punishment.
2. Response to Nonjudicial Punishment.
3. Memorandum for Counsel Review Board.

00/03/02/ia

## My Big Brother

My name is [REDACTED] and I am from St. Louis, Missouri. I joined the Air Force in 1994, and was discharged in 1998. I served 4 years, 1 month and 8 days. I was given a General Discharge, Under Honorable Conditions.

I want to thank the military for changing my life, and showing me a new way to understand how the world works. I joined the Air Force to get money for college, but there were other reasons as well. You see I was born with three sisters, and no brothers, not to mention I am the youngest sibling. I never had a brother; the closest thing I had were my sisters' boyfriends, who really didn't want much to do with me. I felt left out most of the time and really didn't get along with too many boys at school. I only knew how women lived and worked.

Since my family moved around quite a lot, I never got to know one place as my home. So, I felt the military could be my home. I was ready to take on the world, and once I got my high school diploma, that's what I did.

As a youth I tried to get involved in baseball and football and even basketball and soccer. Such participation made me feel like one of the boys, and I loved every minute of it. I even asked my parents to send me to military school because I knew there were boys there, and I had the need to be one of the boys. However, the cost prohibited my being able to attend such a school.

The man called my father is a Lutheran pastor, who decided to become a pastor while I was in grade school, which meant we all had to move from Chicago to St. Louis.

My "father" never really had time for me; he was always working or studying or participating in some other business venture. I never really was close to him. Because I had already decided the military could make me a better man, as soon as I was old enough I determined to go into the military. I was so impatient that I decided I would join the first branch to call me back. As you can figure out, the Air Force called first. I was so happy; I was going to have so many brothers, not to mention a father figure! The Government was going to be my father and my fellow G.I.'s were going to be my bothers.

The military filled a void in my life, I really felt that I didn't have the rich family that I thought I needed to buy my way into college and help me get in to the best fraternities. Well, it turned out that all I really needed was some guidance and a little respect and confidence from others.

As I look back and see all the wonderful ways the military has treated me, I can see that it kept me clean, healthy, clothed and housed, much like a good parent. I mean the Air Force really helped me out. As for brothers, I have many who really understand me and how I think. Even though I was not allowed to continue in the military, I feel fortunate that I was able to accomplish as many positive things as I did. I really know that I did something with my life.

I found out some things about myself while in the military and when I got out as well. My biological father is an alcoholic, as is one of my

sisters, In fact, this debilitating disease seems to run in the family. Though the consequences in my life have caused me to lose a part of what I need most, the military helped me to see that every time I took a drink and went too far, there were consequences I had to pay.

For instance, I was married at 19 and was happy with my wife in the military. However, when I went to Italy alone a few years later, there I turned 21 and began drinking all the time, to a point at which I really messed up my marriage. I stopped calling my wife and started hanging out with the guys. She started to think I had something going on with other woman, but her competition was a bottle. That was three months of my life that I am not proud about. I came home to a wife who thought I had cheated on her during my time in Italy. I failed to realize at the time that alcohol is like a mistress, promoting neglect and deception of that which matters. Since I was in no shape to deal with these marital problems when I came back, I decided to take another unaccompanied assignment to Turkey, which turned out to be an even greater mistake. I only had a few months left in my enlistment, and I really didn't know what to do with my life, so I decided that extending my enlistment and going off to Turkey without my wife would at least help me to avoid dealing with the issues.

I got to Turkey, and right away my wife started to harass me about being too distant and not being there for her. She had some problems too, but they were mostly because of my drinking. I started to drink even more, which made my life a living hell. I didn't understand what was going on. I got up late for work twice and didn't remember little things I had to do, which turned out to be big things. For example, I forgot to wear proper clothing to an important appointment and was yelled at and then disciplined for it.

At that point I had gotten myself so confused that I honestly thought the Air Force I had loved was getting down on me for no good reason. I couldn't figure anything out at all, I started drinking even more, and, in turn, my wife filed for divorce. There were so many more excuses then to help me justify drinking myself in to a coma. One unforgettable night, I did. I was out with a brother who was an alcoholic as well, and whose own marriage was suffering from his problem. We started to drink that morning and didn't stop till the next morning. I was a friend to [REDACTED] and even closer to his daughter, who was my age. The day I started drinking was the day she was to leave. I was so stupid I had drunk myself to sleep and missed her going away party. I woke up in the middle of the stupor and decided to call her and tell her goodbye. That was not a sober moment; I had drunk a full bottle of tequila.

The next morning I knew something wrong had happened, I asked [REDACTED], my friend, what I had done? He told me I said I had called [REDACTED] and yelled at him. I couldn't remember any thing, so right there and then I knew I had a major problem with drinking. That same morning I went right to the medical office self-identified as an alcoholic and asked for help. Unfortunately, my timing was off once again. At the same time I was asking for help, [REDACTED] was on the phone with my commander, demanding to know why one of his men was so out of control. This is why I am here today.

It is sad to know that if I had had the good sense to recognize that I

had a problem with alcohol, I would most likely be finishing college and preparing to enter medical school. However, there are some impediments to reaching that goal, and I am here to sincerely request the help of the Air Force in getting back on the proper track to achieve what I know I can in my life.

I would like to start over and wipe the slate clean. I really need to put this part of my life behind me. I have felt the impact of my stupidity for over four years now. I understand that what I did was wrong, I just ask for the understanding of the court my fellow brothers/sisters, and ask for forgiveness and for the opportunity to have this part of my life expunged from the official record. Should I feel the repercussions of my past for the rest of my life? I have been sober for the past four years, and I do not intend to ever again put my life in the jeopardy that alcohol can bring.

As for my future, I can only hope that I will finish college and then medical school and become one of the best doctors I can be. Once I put my mind to something, I go full heartedly toward my goal. I have a 3.5 grade point average at the community college I attend full time, and I am a certified personal trainer. I do so enjoy helping my clients in dealing with their problems. I am here to prolong life and make everyone happy. Please forgive me and understand that I had a exquisite record up to the time I moved to Turkey, and in that short amount of time, all those problems arose from my inability, or perhaps unwillingness at the time, to control myself in the use of alcohol and in dealing with stressful family problems.

I also know that I am not alone in having to deal with such problems, nor is the Air Force an organization without compassion for those who are willing to change and who have demonstrated the determination to do so. Please help me by granting my request for an upgrade of my discharge to Honorable, which I will need for suitable employment and for the furtherance of a positive and useful life. In addition, I would also ask the court to favorably consider an upgrade in my enlistment code, which would allow me one day to reenter the Air Force. I can think of no greater honor than to return to military service as a medical professional and to put my experience to work in helping others avoid or overcome some of the problems which I have faced.

Respectfully,

