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AIR FORCE DISCHARGE REVIEW BOARD DECISIONAL RATIONALE

FD2003-00191

GENERAL: The applicant appeals for upgrade of discharge to Honorable.

The applicant was offered a personal appearance before the Discharge Review Board but declined to exercise this right.

The attached brief contains available pertinent data on the applicant and the factors leading to the discharge.

FINDINGS: Upgrade of discharge is denied.

The Board finds that neither the evidence of record nor that provided by the applicant substantiates an impropriety or inequity that would justify an upgrade of the discharge to honorable.

Issues. Applicant was discharged for misconduct, commission of a serious offense. Member, who was a Security Forces specialist, was convicted at Summary Court Martial for helping two other Security Forces members make false Armed Forces ID cards, one of whom was subsequently arrested when he used the card at a civilian establishment. In a Stipulation of Fact, member admitted his involvement in the crimes. Although not given a punitive discharge, member's commander determined administrative separation was appropriate; it was noted that of the three perpetrators, member was the senior ranking. Additionally, he provided the supplies, equipment, and facility with which to later make the ID cards, and was the "necessary link" to the making of the false cards. Member's commander felt he was most culpable of the three as his involvement was greater than the other two airmen. During the consideration of clemency matters at the time of sentencing, member requested reduced confinement time; he was granted a reduction of 5 days. The Discharge Review Board concluded member's misconduct was an extremely significant departure from conduct expected of all military members, and not compatible with Air Force standards. In fact, for Security Forces (SF) personnel, crimes of this nature are among the worst offenses an SF member can commit. The record review indicated that member was deeply implicated in the offenses. The Board could find nothing in the record, no inequity or impropriety, on which to suggest a basis to upgrade the discharge.

Applicant further contended he made some errors in judgment due to the emotional strain of his best friend's death. While it is understandable that a member experiencing personal problems has additional stress, the applicant's problems were not unique and there is no evidence he sought help from available agencies such as the Chaplain or Family Support Center. The Board did not find this issue of sufficient mitigation to warrant an upgrade.

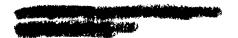
CONCLUSIONS: The Discharge Review Board concludes that the discharge was consistent with the procedural and substantive requirements of the discharge regulation and was within the discretion of the discharge authority and that the applicant was provided full administrative due process.

In view of the foregoing findings the board further concludes that there exists no legal or equitable basis for upgrade of discharge, thus the applicant's discharge should not be changed.

Attachment:

Examiner's Brief

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



(Former AMN) (HGH SRA)

1. MATTER UNDER REVIEW: Appl rec'd a GEN Disch fr USAF 22 APR 02 UP AFI 36-3208, para 5.52 (Misconduct - Commission of a Serious Offense). Appeals for Honorable Discharge.

2. BACKGROUND:

a. DOB: 1 May 79. Enlmt Age: 18 2/12. Disch Age: 22 11/12. Educ: HS DIPL. AFQT: N/A. A-57, E-74, G-57, M-82. PAFSC: 3P051 - Security Forces Apprentice. DAS: 8 Nov 98.

b. Prior Sv: (1) AFRes 11 Jul 97 - 23 Jun 98 (11 months 13 days) (Inactive).

3. SERVICE UNDER REVIEW:

a. Enlisted as AB 24 Jun 98 for 4 yrs. Svd: 3 Yrs 9 Mo 29 Das, of which AMS is 3 yrs 9 months 18 days (excludes 12 days lost time).

b. Grade Status: AMN - 21 Mar 02 (SCM, 21 Mar 02)

SRA - 6 Jul 01 A1C - 24 Oct 99 AMN - 24 Dec 98

- c. Time Lost: 12 days.
- d. Art 15's: None.
- e. Additional: Unknown.
- f. CM: Summary Court Martial 21 March 02

CHARGE: Article 134. Plea: Not Guilty. Finding: Guilty.

Specification: Did, at or near Whiteman AFB, Missouri, between on or about 1 Aug 01 to on or about 5 Dec 01, wrongfully and falsely make certain instruments purporting to be another's identification card in words and figures as follows: The Department of Defense Form 2 of the Airman and Sentence adjudged on 15 March 02: Reduction to Airman, and 15 days confinement.

g. Record of SV: 24 Jun 98 - 23 Feb 00 Whiteman AFB 4 (Initial)

24 Feb 00 - 23 Feb 01 Whiteman AFB 4 (Annual)

24 Feb 01 - 23 Feb 02 Whiteman AFB 3 (Annual)

(Discharged from Whiteman AFB)

- h. Awards & Decs: AFAM, AFTR, AFEM, AFOUA.
- i. Stmt of Sv: TMS: (4) Yrs (9) Mos (0) Das TAMS: (3) Yrs (9) Mos (18) Das
- 4. BASIS ADVANCED FOR REVIEW: Appln (DD Fm 293) dtd 3 Apr 03. (Change Discharge to Honorable)

ISSUES ATTACHED TO BRIEF.

ATCH

1. Applicant's Issues.

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MEMORANDOM FOR SAF/MIBR

FROM:

SUBJECT: HONARABLE DISCHARGE REQUEST

- 1. In May of last year I lost my best friend, to an airplane crash. A few days before he died, he called me and asked me it I could come down and be there when he took his last flight before he would get his pilot's license. I told him I couldn't because I had some things that I needed to do. This was the last time I ever talked to him. After his death I started to change. I acted in ways I never had before. Whenever one of my friends asked me for something or to do something I never turned them down. I guess I felt obligated so I would not lose any more friends. In doing this, I lost more than I ever dreamed possible: my Air Force career, almost my wife and possibly my future.
- 2. I went to great effort to do things for my friends that I would not have done under normal circumstances. I loaned out extensive amounts of money to my friends, spending more money in the last nine months than I had in the previous three years. I never went out to the bars and clubs before the death. I began going out all the time after his death. While I was a friend with the last I put my marriage in jeopardy because I would go out with him instead of staying home with my wife. I pushed away the people who really cared about me and loved me. On two occasions, I even tried to help my friends get into clubs by trying to alter their military IDs.
- 3. One night I had a small party at my house and that is when I was asked if an ID could be made. I had never done that before, but thought a portion of an ID could be made on the computer. While I was at work, was talking to me about problems he had been having with his girlfriend, including not being able to get into clubs to be with her. At that time he asked me to try to make a false ID for him. We both thought about it all night on how it could be done. I never thought about how illegal this was, I just thought about how I was helping my friend. I knew a portion of the ID could be done on the computer and it was up to him to figure out the rest. We tried it while he was at my house but the ID was not turning out, so we did not pursue it anymore.
- 4. When the three weeks are if making a false ID could be done I knew that had told him that I made one for the So I told him it could be done but that did not turn out good enough to use to get in clubs. A couple of days later was told by the First Sergeant to hang out with me during the time of this court martial, since we were both potential prosecution witnesses. During this time is when the asked me to try to make an ID for him. He was so persistent that he even went and got a new ID and we used it. I understand that Vick was arrested because of my failure to tell him "no". However, he had the opportunity to give the ID to OSI while they searched his room earlier that day. I was willing to help OSI with any questions that they had including telling them which club the was going to that night.

- 5. I came in the Air Force because I wanted to make my parents proud and to help me fulfill my dreams of becoming a highway patrolman. I joined the Air Force just out of high school just to be a member of the Security Forces. Security Forces was the only career field I wanted to help me get experience. I enlisted through the Delayed Enlistment Program that guaranteed my job as a Security Forces Member. At first they did not have any slots open so I had to wait for one to open so I could get the one job I wanted.
- 6. I did not know what to expect from the Air Force. It was all a new experience for me. During Basic Training I made every attempt to learn everything that I could about my new career. I made it through Basic with out being recycled. Technical school was a great experience for me at Lackland AFB. I enjoyed learning the skills I would need to be a member of Security Forces.
- 7. Throughout my Air Force career I have obtained several certifications and attended some training courses. I attended Silver Flag Alpha in February 2000. I am a certified trainer. I also assisted my supervisor with mobility records.
- 8. Whiteman AFB was my first assignment. I asked just about all the tech school instructors if they knew anything about Whiteman AFB and the only thing they would tell me was it was a good first assignment, which made me nervous.
- 9. While assigned to Whiteman AFB, I have been an asset to the Security Forces Squadron. I was deployed to Saudi Arabia twice, once in April of 1999 and the other time in October of 2000 after the USS Cole was attacked. I also have accumulated some awards and letters of appreciation. I earned three outstanding unit awards, two Air Expeditionary Medals, and one Air Force Achievement Medal. My letters of appreciation are attached. My duty performance has been well above Air Force Standards. I have received a four rating on two EPRs and my QC scores are well above average. My annual ARF scores include a 93% in February of 2001 and a 92% in November of 2002. In August 2002, my close-in-security area initial testing was a 97%.

- 10. Retention in the U.S. Air Force would have been ideally what I would have wanted. However I realize I have thrown my career and reenlistment away. I feel that my behavior was inappropriate from August until December, and was inconsistent with my behavior prior to death. I have served my punishment and have learned from it. I have served 96 percent of my enlistment term, all of it honorable except for my mistake with the IDs. I'm asking you today to consider an honorable discharge from the greatest military in the world.
- 11. Presently I would like to inform you that I am currently enrolled in Devry University as a Telecommunications major. I also hold a Kansas City Private Officers Commission through the Kansas City Police Dept. I am currently employed full time and attend school full time. I struggle with financial difficulty but I am surviving.

Respectfully Submitted,



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