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# AIR FORCE DISCHARGE REVIEW BOARD DECISIONAL RATIONALE

CASE NUMBER

## FD-2004-00180

**GENERAL:** The applicant appeals for upgrade of discharge to honorable.

The applicant was offered a personal appearance before the Discharge Review Board (DRB) 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 the applicant submitted no issues contesting the equity or propriety of the discharge, and after a thorough review of the record, the Board was unable to identify any that would justify a change of discharge.

Issue 1. Applicant received an under other than honorable conditions discharge for misconduct. The records indicated the applicant received an Article 15 for disrespect to a noncommissioned officer in the execution of his duties, and pursuant to his guilty pleas, was convicted by Summary Court Martial of wrongful methamphetamine use. Although the administrative discharge package was unavailable to the Board for review, some of the court martial documents were. They revealed that member admitted his illegal drug use in a Stipulation of Fact, describing the circumstances by which he came to use it and knowing that it was illegal. He was subsequently caught by a random urinalysis that came back at a level of 2994 ng/ml compared to the cut-off of 500 ng/ml. Member did not dispute the drug test procedures or result, and continues to admit his wrongdoing and accept full responsibility. Additionally, member entered into a Pre Trial Agreement whereby he waived his rights to a trial and acknowledged he could be administratively discharged under other than honorable conditions, and if the government chose to do so, he waived his right for the administrative discharge to be heard by a board. Because the member did receive an administrative discharge, not a punitive discharge, the Board must find an inequity or impropriety on which to base an upgrade; clemency is not available as a reason for upgrading an administrative discharge. The Board noted that drug abuse constitutes serious misconduct that is not compatible with Air Force standards. The Air Force's drug policy was and is well publicized and all members are continually made aware that illegal drug use is not tolerated. The Board concluded the misconduct was a significant departure from conduct expected of all military members. The characterization of the discharge received by the applicant was found to be appropriate.

Issue 2 applies to the applicant's post-service activities. The DRB was pleased to see that the applicant was doing well and has a good job. However, this does not reflect on his period of service or provide a basis in inequity or impropriety which warrants an upgrade. The Board concluded the applicant's misconduct appropriately characterized his term of service.

**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

FD2004-00180

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



(Former AB) (HGH SRA) MISSING DISCHARGE DOCUMENTS

1. MATTER UNDER REVIEW: Appl rec'd a UOTH Disch fr Buckley ANGB, CO on 7 Oct 98 UP AFI 36-3208 (Misconduct). Appeals for Honorable Discharge.

### 2. BACKGROUND:

a. DOB: 29 Apr 75. Enlmt Age: 19 4/12. Disch Age: 23 5/12. Educ: HS DIPL. AFQT: N/A. A-72, E-68, G-57, M-49. PAFSC: 3P051 - Security Police Journeyman. DAS: 16 Aug 95.

b. Prior Sv: (1) AFRes 28 Sep 94 - 28 Mar 95 (6 months 1 day) (Inactive).

#### 3. SERVICE UNDER REVIEW:

a. Enlisted as Amn 29 Mar 95 for 4 yrs. Svd: 3 Yrs 6 Mo 9 Das, of which AMS is 3 yrs 5 months 16 days (23 days lost time).

- b. Grade Status: AB 2 Sep 98 (Summary Court Martial, 25 Aug 98) SrA - Unknown A1C-(EPR Indicates): 29 Mar 95 - 28 Nov 96
- c. Time Lost: 25 Aug 98 thru 17 Sep 98 (23 days).
- d. Art 15's: (1) 17 Dec 97, Buckley ANGB, CO Article 91. You, on or about 26 Nov 97, did treat with disrespect in language toward SSgt and the a superior noncommissioned officer, then known by you to be a superior noncommissioned officer, who was then in the execution of his office, by saying to him, "fuck that and fuck you", shove it up your ass", or words to that effect. Suspended reduction to Airman, and 20 days extra duty. (No appeal) (No mitigation)
- e. Additional: Unknown.
- f. CM: Summary Court Martial 25 Aug 98

CHARGE: Article 112a. Plea: Guilty. Finding: Guilty.

Specification: In that SrA and the state of USAF 821 SFS, Buckley ANG Base, CO, did, at or near the state of Colorado, between on or about 25 May 98 and on or about 1 Jun 98, wrongfully use methamphetamine. Sentence adjudged on 25 Aug 98: Reduction to AB, forfeiture of \$617.00 pay, and confinement for 30 days. 29 Nov 96 - 08 Oct 97 Buckley ANGB 4 (CRO)

- h. Awards & Decs: AFOUA, NDSM, AFTR.
- i. Stmt of Sv: TMS: (3) Yrs (11) Mos (17) Das TAMS: (3) Yrs (5) Mos (16) Das
- 4. BASIS ADVANCED FOR REVIEW: Appln (DD Fm 293) dtd 6 May 04. (Change Discharge to Honorable)

Issue 1: I am petitioning to have my discharge upgraded from other than honorable to honorable, not because there was an error made by the Air Force in the charges brought against me, but because I am not the same person I was then. I still accept full responsibility for my actions, as I did six years ago. I have no excuses for my poor judgement and will not even try to justify my actions, as there is no excuse for taking drugs. I accepted my punishment without contention then and quite honestly I am embarrassed now to admit that I was foolish enough to give into peer pressure. And that I was not strong enough to stand up for what I knew was right.

In conclusion, I understand that this board has full discretion in the overturning of discharges and that while the charges brought against me were totally justified, I am hoping you will take into account the years since my separation from the military. I have become a journeyman in the Heating and Air Conditioning field. I have been subjected to periodic urinalysis and have never tested positive. I give this as further testament that what happened was an isolated incident and not indictitive (sic) of the person I am today.

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None.

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above named accuuder oath that he	efore me, the undersigned, aut user this <u>11</u> day of e/she is a person subject to the d the matters set forth therein a <i>Typed Name of Officer</i>	August Uniform Code of	t	98 , and signed the and that he/she either has st of his/her knowledge a pace Wing Orga	foregoing charges and specific personal knowledge of and belief.	ation 5
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FOOTNOTES: 1 When an appropriate commander signs personally, inapplicable words are stricken.

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