

**AIR FORCE DISCHARGE REVIEW BOARD HEARING RECORD**

<b>NAME OF SERVICE MEMBER (LAST, FIRST MIDDLE INITIAL)</b>	<b>GRADE</b>	<b>AFSN/SSAN</b>
	<b>AIC</b>	

<b>TYPE</b>	<b>GEN</b>	<b>PERSONAL APPEARANCE</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>RECORD REVIEW</b>
<b>COUNSEL</b>		<b>NAME OF COUNSEL AND OR ORGANIZATION</b>	<b>ADDRESS AND OR ORGANIZATION OF COUNSEL</b>	
<b>YES</b>	<b>No</b>			
	<b>X</b>			

<b>MEMBER SITTING</b>	<b>VOTE OF THE BOARD</b>				
	<b>HON</b>	<b>GEN</b>	<b>UOTHC</b>	<b>OTHER</b>	<b>DENY</b>
	X				
	X				
	X				
	X				
	X				

<b>ISSUES</b>	<b>A93.09</b>	<b>INDEX NUMBER</b>	<b>A67.90</b>	<b>EXHIBITS SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD</b>	
				<b>1</b>	ORDER APPOINTING THE BOARD
				<b>2</b>	APPLICATION FOR REVIEW OF DISCHARGE
				<b>3</b>	LETTER OF NOTIFICATION
				<b>4</b>	BRIEF OF PERSONNEL FILE
					COUNSEL'S RELEASE TO THE BOARD
					ADDITIONAL EXHIBITS SUBMITTED AT TIME OF PERSONAL APPEARANCE
					TAPE RECORDING OF PERSONAL APPEARANCE

<b>HEARING DATE</b>	<b>CASE NUMBER</b>
<b>07 Dec 2005</b>	<b>FD-2005-00118</b>

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

Case heard at Washington, D.C.

Advise applicant of the decision of the Board.

Names and votes will be made available to the applicant at the applicant's request.

<b>SIGNATURE OF RECORDER</b>	<b>SIGNATURE OF BOARD PRESIDENT</b>

<b>INDORSEMENT</b>		<b>DATE: 12/8/2005</b>
<b>TO:</b>	<b>FROM:</b>	
SAF/MRBR 550 C STREET WEST, SUITE 40 RANDOLPH AFB, TX 78150-4742	SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE PERSONNEL COUNCIL AIR FORCE DISCHARGE REVIEW BOARD 1535 COMMAND DR, EE WING, 3RD FLOOR ANDREWS AFB, MD 20762-7002	

**AIR FORCE DISCHARGE REVIEW BOARD DECISIONAL RATIONALE**

CASE NUMBER

**FD-2005-00118**

**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:** The Board grants the requested relief.

The Board finds that neither the evidence of record nor that provided by applicant substantiates an impropriety that would justify a change of discharge. However, based upon the record and evidence provided by applicant, the Board finds the applicant's discharge inequitable.

**ISSUE:** Applicant does not contest her discharge. She admits that she had a drinking problem and had hit rock bottom. The records indicated the applicant received two Article 15s, a Vacation action under the UCMJ and a Letter of Reprimand for failure to go, failure to pay just debts and operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated. The DRB opined that due to the applicant's significant post-service conduct and supporting documents, that she is not the same person as depicted during her last year in the Air Force. The applicant had served four years successfully before she got into trouble with alcohol. The Board concluded the misconduct was a significant departure from conduct expected of all military members. However, since her discharge, the member has successfully maintained her sobriety and also has completed over three years employment in a Federal government position which requires a Top Secret security clearance, which she was granted. The DRB determined these significant post-service achievements warranted an upgrade to the characterization of her discharge.

**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.

However, in view of the foregoing findings, the Board further concludes that the overall quality of applicant's service is more accurately reflected by an Honorable discharge and should be changed under the provisions of Title 10, USC 1553.

Attachment:  
Examiner's Brief

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

[REDACTED]  
(Former A1C) (HGH Unknown)

DOCUMENTS MISSING

1. **MATTER UNDER REVIEW:** Appl rec'd a GEN Disch fr Hurlburt Field, FL on 14 Feb 97 UP AFI 36-3208, para 5.50.2 (Pattern of Misconduct - Conduct Prejudicial to Good Order and Discipline). Appeals for Honorable Discharge.

2. **BACKGROUND:**

a. DOB: 22 Apr 66. Enlmt Age: 25 2/12. Disch Age: 30 9/12. Educ: HS DIPL. AFQT: N/A. A-Unknown, E-Unknown, G-Unknown, M-Unknown. PAFSC: 1C351 - Command and Control Journeyman. DAS: Unknown.

b. Prior Sv: (1) AFRes 11 Jul 91 - 10 Dec 91 (5 months) (Inactive).

3. **SERVICE UNDER REVIEW:**

a. Enlisted on 11 Dec 91 for 6 yrs. Svd: 5 Yrs 2 Mo 4 Das, all AMS.

b. Grade Status: A1C - 11 Apr 96

c. Time Lost: None.

d. Art 15's: (Examiner's Note): The following documents are missing. Information was extracted from the Notification Memorandum).

(1) 22 Apr 96, Hurlburt Field, FL - You did, on or about 4 Apr 96, fail to go to your appointed place of duty. You did, between on or about 30 Dec 95 and on or about 29 Feb 96, fail to pay your just debt to American Express for ATM cash advances, goods, services, and service charges in the amount of \$554.85, which was your duty to pay. Punishment unknown. (No appeal) (No mitigation)

(2) 11 Apr 96, Hurlburt Field, FL - You did, on or about 4 Apr 96, fail to go at the time prescribed to your appointed place of duty. Punishment unknown. (No appeal) (No mitigation)

(3) 21 Mar 96, Hurlburt Field, FL - You did, on or about 16 Feb 96, fail to go at the time prescribed to your appointed place of duty. Establishment of an Unfavorable Information File and control roster. Further punishment unknown. (No appeal) (No mitigation)

e. Additional: LOR, 25 NOV 96 - Operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated. Added to existing UIF.

- f. CM: None.
- g. Record of SV: Performance Reports missing from file.
- h. Awards & Decs: AFAM, AFLSAR, AFTR, AFOSLTR, NDSM, AFOUA, AFGCM.
- i. Stmt of Sv: TMS: (5) Yrs (7) Mos (4) Das  
TAMS: (5) Yrs (2) Mos (4) Das

**4. BASIS ADVANCED FOR REVIEW:** Appln (DD Fm 293) dtd 28 Feb 05.  
(Change Discharge to Honorable)

Issue 1: As the supporting documents that I have submitted demonstrate, my post-service conduct and accomplishments have been sufficiently creditable to warrant the Board's clemency relief with upgrade of my characterization of service to fully Honorable.

LETTER OF APPEAL ATTACHED TO BRIEF.

**ATCH**

- 1. Letter of Appeal (2 pages).
- 2. Verification of Completion of Security Background Investigation.
- 3. Employee Performance Plan and Appraisal Forms - 2003/2004 (4 pages).
- 4. Standard Form 50-B; Promotions (3 pages).
- 5. Standard Form 50-B; Awards (4 pages).
- 6. Certificates of Appreciation or Recognition (7 pages).
- 7. Certificates of Accomplishment (5 pages).
- 8. Employment and education history (2 pages).
- 9. Eight(8) Character References.

25MAY05/ia

[REDACTED]

February 28, 2005

Military Discharge Review Board  
United States Air Force  
Washington, District of Columbia

To Whom It May Concern:

On February 14, 1997 I received a General/Under Honorable Conditions discharge from the United States Air Force for "misconduct". This was nine months and twenty-five days short of fulfilling my enlistment contract. At the time I felt as if I had lost everything. My job, my home, my dignity - my honor. I had been a good Airman but I had not been a good citizen. My "misconduct" was very specific and very dangerous. Off-duty I was a drunk.

Long before joining the Air Force I was what is known as a "functioning" alcoholic. Not that it was known to me or at least not at a level of conciseness that would allow me to recognize, much less admit it. Even after an arrest for driving under the influence (DUI), receiving two Article 13s, and lose of rank; I still did not want to believe that I was truly an alcoholic. The beginning of the end is still so clear to me - drinking everyday the month I was on leave between my last two assignments; the DUI the first night at my new base; the night in jail; still drinking up to the day prior to the conference with the Commander; only going to an Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) meeting that night because I thought it would look better for me when I started the rehabilitation program two days later; the reality of realizing I was an "Alcoholic" washing over me like a great wave as I sat in that AA meeting; the sensation of feeling myself shrinking as I comprehended that I truly was the worst thing anyone could possibly be - I was an Alcoholic.

I showed up for my first day at the Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Center (SARC) positive they would take one look at me, know I was a lost cause, and send me away. I could not have been more wrong. They took one look at me, knew I had hit bottom, and were thrilled because all they had to do was work to build me back up. They took a picture that first day and showed it to me on my last day. I did not look like the same person and I wasn't. I was sober and I knew beyond a shadow of a doubt that drinking alcohol would destroy my life, and I was armed with the tools and knowledge to stay sober.

After completing SARC, and prior to being discharged, I returned to my duties as a Command and Control Specialist at the Hurlbert Field Command Post. Two weeks later I was removed from duty by the Commander because it was felt that I should not hold a Top Secret clearance with my drinking record. Until my discharge was complete I served as an assistant to the Dormitory Manager. When notified by the Commander that I would be discharged, he again used the Top Secret clearance as the reason for being unable to return me to duty and therefore being unable to retain me in the Air Force.

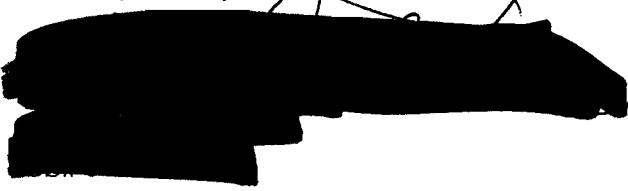
After departing military duty, I worked several different jobs while trying to regain my place in the world. I began taking college classes while trying to find direction for my future. And all the while I focused on learning to live a sober life. In 2002, with over five years of sobriety and a new found confidence from several career successes, I moved to the Washington, D.C. area and began working for the United States government at the Executive Office of the President (EOP). All employees of EOP are required to pass a security background investigation conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Though my investigation took longer than most, and with full knowledge of my drinking record, the FBI completed my investigation and the EOP granted me a Top Secret clearance.

I have been with EOP for over two years, have received several awards, and have been promoted to the position of Assistant to the Special Assistant to the President and Director, Office of Administration. Last year I applied to the United States Foreign Service, a very long process requiring another security background investigation, as well as a full medical clearance, to be conducted by the Department of State. These clearances delved even deeper into my drinking history and current program of sobriety. The results are that I begin my career as a Foreign Service Specialist in March 2005.

Since my discharge I have tried to continue my education as finances would allow. Though I did pay into the Montgomery GI Bill, I have been unable to utilize the funds because I did not receive a fully Honorable discharge. With access to the educational benefits of the GI Bill I could complete my degree and be able to reach even greater heights both personally and professionally.

I am extremely proud, and honored, to have served over five years in the United States Air Force. Those experiences, including the discharge, are part of what made me the better person that I am today. The successes I have achieved and the new path I am beginning lead me to the decision to apply to appeal my discharge. I feel that I must finally close the door on that part of my life, one way or the other. It has been eight years and three months since I gained sobriety, and just over eight years since receiving a General/Under Honorable Conditions discharge. I am appealing to have that discharge upgraded to fully Honorable because I believe my post-military life shows that had I been afforded the opportunity to complete my enlistment I would have proven myself worthy of an Honorable discharge.

Thank you for your consideration.





DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS 16th SPECIAL OPERATIONS WING (AFSOC)

FD 2005-00118

14 Jun 97

MEMORANDUM FOR A1C [REDACTED] 16 MSS

FROM: 16 MSS/CC

SUBJECT: Notification Memorandum

1. I am recommending your discharge from the United States Air Force for a pattern of misconduct, more specifically, for conduct prejudicial to good order and discipline. The authority for this action is AFD 36-32 and AFI 36-3208, section H, paragraph 5.50.2. If my recommendation for discharge is approved, your service will be characterized as honorable or general. I am recommending your service be characterized as general.
2. My reasons for this action are based on the following:
  - a. You did, on or about 16 Feb 96, fail to go to your appointed place of duty at the time prescribed, for which you received an Article 15, dated 21 Mar 96, and the establishment of a Unfavorable Information File (UIF) and control roster.
  - b. You did, on or about 4 Apr 96, fail to go to your appointed place of duty at the time prescribed, for which you received a vacation action, dated 11 Apr 96, which was added to your existing UIF.
  - c. You did, between on or about 30 Dec 95 and on or about 29 Feb 96, fail to pay your just debt to American Express for ATM cash advances, goods, services, and service charges in the amount of \$554.85, which was your duty to pay, for which you received an Article 15, dated 22 Apr 96, which was added to your existing UIF and control roster.
  - d. You did, on or about 4 Apr 96, fail to go to your appointed place of duty at the time prescribed, for which you received an Article 15, dated 22 Apr 96, which was added to your existing UIF, and for which you were placed on the control roster.
  - e. You did, on or about 4 Nov 96, operate a motor vehicle while intoxicated, for which you received a Letter of Reprimand (LOR), dated 25 Nov 96, which was added to your existing UIF.
3. Copies of the documents to be forwarded to the separation authority in support of this recommendation are attached. The commander exercising SPCM jurisdiction or a higher authority will decide whether you will be discharged or retained in the Air Force. If you are discharged, you will be ineligible for reenlistment in the Air Force.

Received Time May. 20. 3:44 PM Time . . . Any Place

4. You have the right to consult counsel. Military legal counsel has been obtained to assist you. I have made an appointment for you to consult [REDACTED] Hurlburt Field, FL, Bldg 90042, on 17 JAN 97 at 0830 hours. You may consult civilian counsel at your own expense.

5. You have the right to submit statements in your own behalf. Any statements you want the separation authority to consider must reach me within 3 work days unless you request and receive an extension for good cause shown. I will send them to the separation authority.

6. If you fail to consult counsel or to submit statements in your own behalf, your failure will constitute a waiver of your right to do so.

7. You are scheduled for a medical examination and you should report to the Hurlburt Clinic at 0700 hrs on 17 JAN 97 for the examination. [REDACTED]  
0920

8. Any personal information you furnish in rebuttal is covered by the Privacy Act Statement of 1974. A copy of AFI 36-3208 is available for your use at the unit orderly room.

Attachments:

Documents Supporting Basis for Discharge

1. AF Form 3070 w/atchs, dtd 21 Mar 96 (3 pgs)
2. AF Form 366 w/atchs, dtd 11 Apr 96 (2 pgs)
3. AF Form 3070 w/atchs, dtd 22 Apr 96 (3 pgs)
4. AF Form 1058, dtd 22 May 96
5. LOR w/atchs, dtd 25 Nov 96 (4 pgs)
6. AF Form 1058, dtd 13 Dec 96

Documents containing derogatory information--which are not listed in the notification memorandum.

7. AF Form 1137, undtd
8. AF Form 2587, dtd 23 Dec 96
9. AF Form 2731, dtd 18 Nov 96
10. Airman's receipt of notification memorandum