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AIR FORCE DISCHARGE REVIEW BOARD DECISIONAL RATIONALE

FD-2005-00329

GENERAL: The applicant appeals for upgrade of discharge to honorable, to change the reason and authority for the discharge, and to change the reenlistment code.

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, change of reason and authority for discharge, and change of reenlistment code are denied.

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

ISSUES:

- 1. Applicant contends discharge was inequitable because he claims that he did not commit the offense. The records indicated that the applicant had court martial charges preferred for indecent assault on a female service member. The applicant asked to be discharged in lieu of trial by court martial. 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.
- 2. Applicant states that his discharge did not take into account the good things he did while in the service. The DRB took note of the applicant's duty performance as documented by his performance reports, letters of recommendation and other accomplishments. They found the seriousness of the willful misconduct offset any positive aspects of the applicant's duty performance. The DRB recognized the fact that the applicant had serve nine years total service before the discharge was initiated, but concluded the applicant's misconduct outweighed the positive aspects of his time in the Air Force.
- 3. The applicant contends that he had an Honorable discharge. The member's DD 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, shows the character of service as "Under Other Than Honorable Conditions, Triable by Court Martial." The applicant submitted a DD 256, Certificate of Honorable Discharge as proof that his discharge was Honorable. The Board reviewed the member's service record to include discharge papers signed by the applicant's commander stating that he would receive an administrative discharge "Under Other Than Honorable Conditions" in lieu of court martial. The DRB concluded that the military personnel flight issued the DD 256 in error and that the DD 214 is correct.

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 SRA) (HGH SRA)

1. MATTER UNDER REVIEW: Appl rec'd a UOTH Disch fr McChord AFB, WA on 30 Dec 99 UP AFI 36-3208, Chapter 4 (Discharge in Lieu of Court Martial). Appeals for Honorable Discharge, and to Change the RE Code, Reason and Authority for Discharge.

2. BACKGROUND:

- a. DOB: 12 Nov 70. Enlmt Age: 19 8/12. Disch Age: 29 1/12. Educ: HS DIPL. AFQT: N/A. A-82, E-51, G-48, M-62. PAFSC: 2T251 Air Transportation Journeyman. DAS: 27 Mar 96.
 - b. Prior Sv: (1) AFRes 25 Jul 90 08 Nov 90 (3 months 15 days) (Inactive).
- (2) Enlisted as AB 9 Nov 90 for 4 yrs. Extented on 2 Sep 92 for 2 months. Svd: 03 yrs 10 months 05 days, all AMS. AMN Unknown. A1C-(EPR Indicates): 9 Nov 90-8 Jul 92. SrA 9 Nov 93. EPRs: 3,4,5.

3. SERVICE UNDER REVIEW:

- a. Reenlisted as SrA 15 Sep 94 for 6 yrs. Svd: 05 Yrs 03 Mo 15 Das, all AMS.
 - b. Grade Status: None.
 - c. Time Lost: None.
 - d. Art 15's: None.
 - e. Additional: None.
 - f. CM: None.
 - g. Record of SV: 13 Jul 94 12 Jul 95 Edwards AFB 5 (Annual)
 13 Jul 95 10 Mar 96 Edwards AFB 5 (Annual)
 11 May 96 10 May 97 McChord AFB 5 (Annual)
 11 May 97 10 May 98 McChord AFB 5 (Annual)
 11 May 98 10 May 99 McChord AFB 4 (Annual)
- h. Awards & Decs: AFAM W/2 DEVS, AFLSAR W/1 DEV, AFTR, AFOSSTR, NDSM, NCOPMER, AFEM, AFOUA W/2 DEVS, AFGCM W/2 DEVS.
 - i. Stmt of Sv: TMS: (09) Yrs (05) Mos (06) Das TAMS: (09) Yrs (01) Mos (22) Das



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE 86th AIRLIFT WING (USAFE)

2 3 NOV 1888

MEMORANDUM FOR 86 AW/CC

FROM: 86 AW/JA

ECT: Legal Review of Request for Discharge in Lieu of Trial by Court-Martial SrA 623 AMSS

- 1. On 22 Nov 99, SrA submitted a Discharge in Lieu of Trial by Court-Martial under AFI 36-3208, Chapter 4 (Atch 2). The Commander, 623 AMSS, recommends this request be approved (Atch 3).
- 2. FACTS: The accused, SrA Wayne A. Wright, is charged with one charge and one specification of indecent assault upon Airman a person not his wife by inserting two of his fingers into her vagina without her consent, with the intent to gratify his sexual desires. This incident was initially reported on 30 May 99 by (then AB) The victim reported that SrA removed her panties and indecently assaulted her by placing his fingers into her vagina without her consent. When the 568th Security Forces Flight interviewed SrA on 30 May 99, he provided a sworn statement under rights advisement.
- 3. DISCUSSION: Discharge in lieu of courts-martial should be reserved for deserving cases. Normally, a request for discharge is favorably considered when the victim would suffer additional trauma from the trial, the victim is uncooperative, or it would be in the best interest of the Air Force. In this case, approval of this request would be in the best interest of the Air Force. In addition, the victim provided a statement on 22 Nov 99 requesting SrAc request for discharge in lieu of court-martial be approved. She understands that if the request if approved, he will be discharged from the Air Force with an Under Other than Honorable Conditions (UOTHC) discharge. She asserts that he will suffer adverse consequences and be denied significant veterans benefits by the UOTHC discharge. Coupled with a termination of his nineyear military career with UOTHC characterization, the victim feels these consequences are sufficient punishment in this case. The victim has some valid concerns about the disposition of this case. Charges were referred in this case in large part to support the victim's desire that the accused be held accountable for his actions. The victim is still willing to testify at court, if necessary. However, if she can avoid testifying, and be assured that the accused will be discharged from the Air Force, that is her preferred course of action. Given the facts and circumstances surrounding this case, an administrative discharge, particularly an under other than honorable conditions, is appropriate, because it will send the necessary message to SrA and motivate him to reform his behavior once he is discharged. Given the serious nature

and motivate him to reform his behavior once he is discharged. Given the serious nature of the charged offense, a service characterization of under other than honorable conditions (UOTHC) is clearly warranted.

~ FD 2005-00329

- 5. ERRORS AND IRREGULARITIES: None noted.
- 6. OPTIONS: You have the following options in this case:
 - a. Recommend to 3 AF/CC that he approve this request with a service characterization of Honorable, General or Under Other Than Honorable Conditions Discharge.
 - b. Disapprove the request and return it to the unit commander.

| 7. | RECOMMENDATION | : Forward this file to 3AF/CC with a recommendation to approve | : this |
|----|-------------------------|--|--------|
| re | quest and discharge SrA | with a UOTHC. | |

Lt Col, USAF

Staff Judge Advocate

3 Attachments

1. Proposed 86 AW/CC Letter.

2. SrA request, 22 Nov 99

3. 623 AMSS/CC Ltr, 23 Nov 99

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| 10. CHARGE: | | UCMJ, ARTIC | CE 134 | | | |
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| beman avoda | accuser this _/Cff day of | i augu | いて ,19 <u>99</u> | , and signed the fore: | going charges and spe | cifications |
| under oath tha | it he/she is a person subject | to the Uniform | ode of Military Ju | stice and that he/she eit | her has personal know | ledge of |
| or has investig | gated the matters set forth th | erein and that t | he same are true t | o the best of his/her kno | wledge and belief. | |
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| | | · . | | 86th Airlift Wir | | |
| | Typed Name of Officer | 1 | • | Organiza | ation of Officer | |
| | • | | | | | |
| | Captain | | <u> </u> | Judge Advocate | | |
| Tr. | Grada | | • | Official Capacit (See R.C.M. 307(b)m | ty to Administer Oath Just be commissioned | officerl |
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| | Signature | | | , | • | |
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FD2005-00329

| On 16 August | | , the accused was informed of the charges against him/Net and of the name(s) of |
|--|--|--|
| | | R.C.M. 308 if notification cannot be made.) |
| | | 623rd Air Mobility Support Squadron |
| • | Name of Immediate Commander | Organization of Immediate Commander |
| | Lieutenant Colonel | |
| | | |
| | Sign pl ur e | |
| | | IARY COURT-MARTIAL CONVENING AUTHORITY |
| 13. The sworn charges w | vere received at (400 hours, | 16 August 1999 at Headquarters, 86th |
| Airlift Wing | , Ramstein Air Base, G | Designation of Commend or ermany |
| • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • | y Court-Martial Jurisdiction (See R.C.M. | 1. 403) |
| | y capit-marian venevarian (002 | FOR THE 1 Commander |
| | | Staff Judge Advocate |
| | The man integral the series and only special | Official Capacity of Officer Signing |
| Colonel | | |
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| | Signature | |
| | | FERRAL: SERVICE OF CHARGES |
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| neadquarters, 8 | 6th Airlift Wing | Ramstein AB, Germany 8 September 1999 |
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| | Special cou | Ramstein AB, Germany 8 September 1999 |
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1st Ind. DD Form 458, Charge Sheet, dated 16 August 1999, Senior Airman 62nd Aerial Port Squadron (AMC), McChord Air Force Base, Washington

623 AMSS/CC

1 6 AUG 1999

TO: 86 AW/CC

- 1. Since SrA arrival to the 623rd Air Mobility Support Squadron 14 April 1999, his performance in the load planning section has been noteworthy. He was a valued asset while coordinating with U.S. Army and Air Force deploying units during Operation ALLIED FORCE. He has sincere respect for supervision and his dress and appearance is exceptional.
- 2. I recommend the charge be referred to trial by general court-martial. The Security Forces report of investigation is attached and supports the charge. The victim and witnesses have been informed of the charge. Due to the nature of the charge, I do not believe retention on active duty is appropriate if he is convicted. The accused is not subject to the restrictions identified in AFI 31-501, para 8.14.

Lt Col, USAF

Commander

Attachments:

- 1. Personal Data Sheet
- 2. Report of Investigation