

AIR FORCE DISCHARGE REVIEW BOARD HEARING RECORD

NAME OF SERVICE MEMBER (LAST, FIRST MIDDLE INITIAL) []		GRADE A1C	AFSN/SSAN []			
TYPE GEN	PERSONAL APPEARANCE	X	RECORD REVIEW			
COUNSEL		ADDRESS AND OR ORGANIZATION OF COUNSEL				
YES	No					
	X					
MEMBER SITTING		VOTE OF THE BOARD				
		HON	GEN	UOTHC	OTHER	DENY
						X
						X
						X
						X
ISSUES A93.07 A94.05 A92.17		INDEX NUMBER A67.10		EXHIBITS SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD		
				1	ORDER APPOINTING THE BOARD	
				2	APPLICATION FOR REVIEW OF DISCHARGE	
				3	LETTER OF NOTIFICATION	
				4	BRIEF OF PERSONNEL FILE	
					COUNSEL'S RELEASE TO THE BOARD ADDITIONAL EXHIBITS SUBMITTED AT TIME OF PERSONAL APPEARANCE TAPE RECORDING OF PERSONAL APPEARANCE HE	
HEARING DATE 14 Sep 2006		CASE NUMBER FD-2006-00015				
APPLICANT'S ISSUE AND THE BOARD'S DECISIONAL RATIONALE ARE DISCUSSED ON THE ATTACHED AIR FORCE DISCHARGE REVIEW BOARD DECISIONAL RATIONALE						
<p>Case heard in Washington, D.C.</p> <p>Advise applicant of the decision of the Board, the right to a personal appearance with/without counsel, and the right to submit an application to the AFBCMR</p> <p>Names and votes will be made available to the applicant at the applicant's request.</p>						
SIGNATURE OF RECORDER []			SIGNATURE OF BOARD PRESIDENT []			
INDORSEMENT				DATE: 9/18/2006		
TO: SAF/MRBR 550 C STREET WEST, SUITE 40 RANDOLPH AFB, TX 78150-4742		FROM: 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-2006-00015

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

ISSUE:

Issue 1. Although not explicitly stated, the applicant contends his discharge was inequitable because it was too harsh. He contends that he should not have received the Article 15 for being derelict in the performance of his duties in that he failed to escort Third Country National employees to ensure they exited the base and while assigned as a sentinel, left his post before being relieved. The records indicated the applicant received two Article 15's and a Vacation for misconduct. The first Article 15, as stated above for being derelict in the performance of duty, the applicant was punished with a reduction in grade to senior airman and received a suspended forfeiture of pay. The second infraction was a Vacation action for driving under the influence resulting in forfeiture of \$945.00 pay for two months. He also received an Article 15 for the driving under the influence in which he was punished with a reduction in grade to airman first class and a reprimand. The DRB opined that through these administrative actions, the applicant had ample opportunities to change his negative behavior. 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. 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 Board concluded the discharge was appropriate for the reasons which were the basis for this case.

The applicant further stated his desire for an upgrade in rank to senior airman. The DRB took note and does not have the authority to reinstate a previously held grade. The applicant's only recourse would be to submit a request for consideration to the Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records.

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 A1C) (HGH SSGT)

1. **MATTER UNDER REVIEW:** Appl rec'd a GEN Disch fr USAF Vandenberg AFB, CA on 22 Oct 04 UP AFI 36-3208, para 5.49 (Misconduct - Minor Disciplinary Infractions). Appeals for Honorable Discharge.

2. **BACKGROUND:**

a. DOB: 4 Sep 78. Enlmt Age: 17 10/12. Disch Age: 26 1/12. Educ: HS DIPL. AFQT: N/A. A-57, E-57, G-41, M-26. PAFSC: 3A051 - Information Management Journeyman. DAS: 22 Feb 02.

b. Prior Sv: (1) AFRes 17 Jul 96 - 7 Jan 97 (5 months 21 days) (Inactive).

(2) Enlisted as AB 8 Jan 97 for 4 yrs. Svd: 3 yrs 1 month 7 days, all AMS. AMN - 8 Jul 97. A1C - 8 May 98. SrA - 8 Jan 00. EPRs: 5,5.

3. **SERVICE UNDER REVIEW:**

a. Reenlisted as SrA 15 Feb 00 for 4 yrs. Svd: 04 Yrs 08 Mo 08 Das, all AMS.

b. Grade Status: A1C - 27 Jul 04 (Article 15, 27 Jul 04)
SrA - 12 Jun 04 (Article 15, 12 Jun 04)
SSgt - 1 Sep 03

c. Time Lost: None.

d. Art 15's: (1) 27 Jul 04, Vandenberg AFB, CA - Article 111. You, did, on or about 10 Jul 04, physically control a vehicle, to wit: 2002 Mazda 626, while the alcohol concentration on your breath was .12 grams of alcohol per 210 liters of breath or greater. Reduction to A1C, and a reprimand. (No appeal) (No mitigation)

(2) 21 Jul 04, Vacation, Vandenberg AFB, CA - Article 111. You, did, on or about 10 Jul 04, physically control a vehicle, to wit: 2002 Mazda 626, while the alcohol concentration on your breath was .12 grams of alcohol per 210 liters of breath or greater. Forfeiture of \$945.00 pay per month for 2 months. (No appeal) (No mitigation)

(3) 12 Jun 04, Vandenberg AFB, CA - Article 92. You, who knew of your duties at Karshi-Khanabad Airfield, Uzbekistan, on or about 2 Jun 04, were derelict in the performance of those duties in that you negligently

failed to escort Third Country National employees you were responsible for watching to an Entry Control Point and to ensure they exited the base, as it was your duty to do. Article 113. You, on or about 3 Jun 04, at Karshi-Khanabad Airfield, Uzbekistan, while receiving special pay under 37 U.S.C. Section 310, being posted as a sentinel at Entry Control Point 2, did leave your post before you were regularly relieved. Reduction to SrA. Suspended forfeiture of \$945.00 pay per month for 2 months. Reprimand. (No appeal) (No mitigation)

e. Additional: None.

f. CM: None.

g. Record of SV: 08 Sep 99 - 10 Aug 00 Kirtland AFB 3 (CRO)
 11 Aug 00 - 07 Feb 01 Kirtland AFB 4 (CRO)
 08 Feb 01 - 18 Jan 02 Osan AB 3 (CRO)
 19 Jan 02 - 18 Jan 03 Vandenberg AFB 4 (Annual)
 19 Jan 03 - 18 Jan 04 Vandenberg AFB 4 (Annual)

h. Awards & Decs: AFTR, AFLSAR, NDSM, NCOPMER, AFGCM W/1 OLC.

i. Stmt of Sv: TMS: (08) Yrs (03) Mos (06) Das
 TAMS: (07) Yrs (09) Mos (15) Das

4. **BASIS ADVANCED FOR REVIEW:** Appln (DD Fm 293) dtd 01 Jan 06.
 (Change Discharge to Honorable)

ISSUES ATTACHED TO BRIEF.

ATCH

1. Applicant's Issues.
2. Three Character References.
3. DD Form 214.
4. Airman Leadership School Diploma.

17JAN06/ia



United States Air Force (Discharge) Review Boards Agency
550-C Street West, Suite 40
Randolph Air Force Base, Texas 78150-4742

1 January 2006

**MEMORANDUM FOR USAF REVIEW BOARDS AGENCY
SAF/MRBR**

FROM: MR. [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: PERSONAL CHARACTER ATTACHMENT LETTER(S) TO REQUEST AND CONSIDER OVERALL SERVED MILITARY ACTIVE DUTY, IN SUPPORT OF SECTION 6 OF DD FORM 293, APPLICATION FOR THE REVIEW OF DISCHARGE FROM THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES AND (2) REQUEST APPROVAL OF CHARACTERIZATION OF DISCHARGE CATEGORY UPGRADE TO "HONORABLE", ADMINISTERED BY THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE DISCHARGE REVIEW BOARD TO AUTHORIZE UPGRADE MODIFICATION ON DD FORM 214, CERTIFICATE OF RELEASE OR DISCHARGE FROM ACTIVE DUTY

Dear greetings to the United States Air Force Review Boards Agency/Discharge Review Board,

Hello, my name is [REDACTED]. I am a 27-year old single full-time employee/part-time evening college student civilian and ex-servicemember/separated veteran, currently residing at my *Home of Record* location in San Diego, CA. I served enlisted active duty in the United States Air Force from 8 January 1997 to 22 October 2004, and with all of my inner being, belief, and spirit, I served my country **PROUDLY**, for the better part of 8 years of my life. My decision to join the United States Air Force after high school at 17, not only opened a new door of career opportunities for me in my forthcoming adult life, but I also received the admiration and undying support from my mother, friends, and additional family members. Along with having that much needed support in my pocket given to me by my family and friends, the fact that I would embark on potentially traveling to new places those back home would never see, made them and I much more excited to begin my journey toward a prosperous and self-fulfilling career in the United States Air Force. I am cordially writing to all appointed members of the United States Air Force Review Board today, with all my sincere effort and hope of requesting your consideration, approval, and granted blessing to upgrade my rank pay grade and overall characterization of discharge to an "Honorable" category stature. I received a General Discharge (under Honorable Conditions) in October 2004, marking the end of my Air Force active duty military career, at Vandenberg Air Force Base, California (MAJCOM—Air Force Space Command/AFSPC). Before I further explain to the appointed members of the United States Air Force Discharge Review Board (USAFDRB) the reasons why I received a General-Under Honorable Conditions characterization of discharge and my justification to request the USAFDRB strongly consider and grant approval to motion an authorization to upgrade my rank/discharge characterization, I would like to provide a few following facts, in regard to my service throughout my time on active duty:

(Continued on following page)

- Had never been placed on a personnel "control roster", which usually comes with the consequence of a commander's action taken against an Air Force servicemember who clearly demonstrates substantial misconduct in a particular incident, or a series of incidents, while serving on active duty.
- Had never lost a certified SECRET-classification level security clearance during any point of time served on active duty, which is granted and received upon a distinctly thorough Federal Government background check before entering active duty, however, can be taken away for clearly demonstrating substantial misconduct by a servicemember, while serving on active duty.
- Had never been de-certified in my career-field skill level (3 or 5-level) during any point of time served on active duty as an Information Management apprentice/journeyman (Administrative), nor had I ever been classified as failure to progress, in my career upgrade training.
- Directly supported numerous flight section and squadron commanding officers (O-4 and above) during time served on active duty as a Commander's Support Staff (CSS) member.
- During my tenure served on active duty (and as shown on my **DD Form 214, Section 18, Member-1 and Member-4 copy**), I received the Air Force Good Conduct Medal twice, in which the oak leaf cluster was awarded.
- Served **87** consecutive months (of 93 total months) of clean active duty military service, without any major derogatory action taken against me, under the legal statute of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ).

As previously mentioned, I received a General (under Honorable Conditions) Discharge that was due in part by two incidents, in which I both received Article 15/Non-Judicial Punishment (NJP) action and a reduction of an enlisted grade/stripe for both offenses. They are the following (NOTE: The two incidents and administrative punishment taken upon me by the Air Force, all occurred within the LAST 6 MONTHS SERVED ON ACTIVE DUTY):

1. First Offense (approx. May 2004): As an E-5 Staff Sergeant (SSgt) during a 3-month overseas deployment in the Middle East (Karshi-Khanabad Air Base, Uzbekistan—supporting "Operation Enduring Freedom"), was found guilty by the Expeditionary Wing Commander/Base Commander (O-6 rank official, Colonel), for dereliction of duty by leaving post without proper relief.
2. Second Offense (July 2004): As an E-4 Senior Airman (SrA) at my permanent duty assignment at Vandenberg Air Force Base, California, approximately one month after returning from the overseas deployment in Uzbekistan, was found guilty by my direct squadron commander (O-5, Lt Colonel), for Driving Under the Influence (DUI) at the installation's main gate on an off-duty weekend night.

(As a request to the United States Air Force Request Discharge Review Board, may the record reflect of further research of my military personnel service files by the USAFDRB, that I never received any other severely major adverse action taken against me during any other period of service on active duty that would constitute a concerning distinct pattern of misconduct)

***CIRCUMSTANTIAL OUTLOOK OF EVENTS THAT LEAD TO FIRST OFFENSE/ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION, IN RESULT:

May 2004, Karshi-Khanabad Air Base, Uzbekistan:

During this time window, on a cool evening in May 2004, I was on duty/post working a 12-hour shift as a Third Country National (TCN) escort adjacent to the installation's airfield, overlooking security of contracted Uzbek country nationals who were performing maintenance construction work at a section of the installation's airfield vicinity

(NOTE: USAF Security Forces supervised overall security measures of the installation's airfield). My orders while on duty, as was given to me by my direct deployment supervisor every duty day (a higher ranked SSgt that had a "line number" for TSgt), was to remain on post and continue security measures until the contracted Uzbek nationals finished work for the day and escort them outside the airfield and installation's boundaries. On this particular evening, I witnessed the Uzbek country national contract workers proceeding to head for the end of the airfield's boundaries of the installation (of which regularly would mean that the workers concluded work for the day, to head home off-base/outside installation boundaries). As ordered, like any other end of duty day before leaving post before leaving the airfield and re-entering the inner limits of the installation, I personally escorted the workers outside the airfield/installation boundaries, assuming all workers under my assigned watch had properly exited the outside limits of the airfield/installation. My additional instructions by my deployment supervisor, was to ensure the entire site of the airfield section that I was assigned to, was clear of remaining contracted workers, and confirm all forklifts/construction-made machines were turned off. Once these end-of-duty day confirmation security measures were met, I was free to leave my post and proceed to end my duty for the day. As instructed (although the construction site area that was regularly watched by TCN escorts was pitch-black and dark because all the work lights and construction vehicle machines were turned off), I scanned the work site one last time and then efficiently made proper judgment that the work site area of the airfield was secure, I continued to leave the airfield and re-entered the military/contract civilian installation boundaries ("tent city"). Approximately one hour after leaving my post and under the impression I was off-duty, I was approached by my direct TCN escort co-worker/supervisor at the TCN office (back on the main boundaries of the installation), having already turned in my work radio upon ending shift work. My direct then proceeded to explain that a USAF Security Forces officer (a 2Lt) had witnessed contracted country nationals still working on the airfield without a TCN escort, and that the Security Forces officer had also proceeded to inform the Air Force Office of Special Investigations (AFOSI) agents assigned to the base. After I further explained to my direct supervisor in detail my actions that distinctly followed my end-of-duty day security measures to implement before leaving post (in which my supervisor agreed I followed daily duty orders to the best of my ability), regardless of the fact, I was ordered to report back to the airfield to answer circumstance-of-events questions by on-site SNCO/Officer Security Forces and AFOSI agent personnel. After providing written statements of my escort duty, I was later charged with dereliction of duty without proper relief. Throughout the investigation process/period, I had the full support of my direct TCN supervisor and all other higher-ranking NCO/company-grade officer personnel in my direct TCN squadron/unit (of which 3 character witness letters were written on my behalf in defense of the charges that were brought against me, explaining the full support and justification of my diligent security measure implementation, in addition with requesting such high degree of possible action that might be taken not be imposed or warranted). In the end result, despite gaining full support of my entire unit chain-of-command that my security measures were just, I still was given NJP action and a reduction to the grade of Senior Airman/SrA by the Expeditionary Wing/Base Commander at Karshi-Khanabad AB. I, to this day, feel I was wrongly punished for doing my job in a manner I was distinctly told to perform, that partly had lead to eventual diminished end to my Air Force career. Meanwhile, during this period (May 2004 and in times previous), I also had a few other milestones that I was doing my best to resolve which started in the States, in that I had hoped this deployment would make my personal life and on-going future career in the Air Force a more smoother, positive, and a newly "reborn"/concentrated one.

During this period, I was in excessive financial debt that compiled dating back to my first few years in the Air Force. Although the Air Force was never personally involved in my financial trouble (for some time), because I made my personal commitment to maintain responsibility to pay my "minimum amounts" month-to-month, I still had an astounding debt that I still to this day, could not fathom overcoming had I not volunteered (NOTE: I mention volunteered) for the deployment to Uzbekistan. Throughout most of my enlisted military career, I was in serious credit card debt equaling \$3,500.00 that derived from my younger days being stationed at Kirtland Air Force Base (Albuquerque, New Mexico), where I managed to rack up this significant amount using my Base Exchange/BX-PX/AAFES card. I was around 18-19 years old, young and totally uneducated about credit. I wanted things for my new dorm room at my first base away from home—but yet, didn't have the money to cover what I wanted (that very minute!). So I "charged away" early in my young Air Force career, unaware how long this significant amount of debt would follow me later on. Additionally, some time and a good few years during my assignment tenures, I met a particular woman, had a steady long-term relationship, and eventually became married to this woman. Like most relationships and marriages, they go through problems and sometimes unpredictable downfalls—mine was no different. I had an overall nightmarish experience in a very short

marriage with an individual that gave me hell, all the way until my divorce was signed and official by a Santa Barbara County, California judge. I eventually came to realize that after 3 years of a long-term relationship with this particular woman, getting married to her (literally) probably was not the best decision for me personally in my young adult life and for my potentially-growing career in the Air Force, on top of the fact by having enough of a personal "helping" of problems on my plate. I dealt with an outright manipulative, vindictive, attention-getting, drama-prone woman throughout the short course of my marriage with her (10 months before separation, 16 months total—when divorce was final in Santa Barbara County, CA). The sad part in regards to her demeanor, while her "disguised" version of her personality supposedly supported my career and her role as an Air Force wife, she did everything to help in the contribution of diminishing it, the very moment she knew I would move on with my life without her (thankfully I never had children with her). She (a civilian) constantly dealt with my squadron chain-of-command at Vandenberg AFB during my "pre-divorce/separation" finalization period, in a primitive attempt to use what she new about military laws to falsely accuse me of not honoring spousal support payments every month, until the divorce was over (I was ordered by my squadron chain-of-command at Vandenberg AFB, CA—to pay FULL Basic Allowance for Sustenance/BAS entitlement—AND I DIDN'T EVEN HAVE NATURAL DEPENDENTS/CHILDREN WITH HER!). Realizing that I needed to end my marriage with a woman that did more harm than good and caused more stress than relief, I incurred more debt. Only this time, I needed to rent a moving truck and all the transportation expenses that came with it. Going through an ugly separation and pre-divorce period, I personally had no money to send my eventual/soon-to-be ex-wife back to her home in New Mexico (from California). So, I was forced to borrow from the base's federal credit union (Vandenberg AFB) institution, in taking out a loan to cover the moving/transportation costs to send my separated spouse (and her dependent son) back home. This moment in time (around Aug-Sep 2003) was extremely difficult for me. I was close to \$5,600.00 in credit card/bank loan debt, going through a terrible divorce period, broke, and all at the same time, trying my best to maintain my composure in the progression of my Air Force career potential (filed for divorce from my spouse in November 2003—State of California, County of Santa Barbara). So, after moving my spouse back to New Mexico, an opportunity of a lifetime (in my belief), came into my rather disorganized and extremely unstable personal situation. A 3-month deployment tour to the Middle East (with a Report No Later Than Date/RNLTD of March 2004) popped up in my squadron and I jumped on the opportunity. A deployment like this would allow me to see another part of the world I had never seen before, would give me a short break from all my personal stress in the States, make enough money from the tax-free deployment zone benefit to pay off my astounding credit card/bank loan debts, and lastly, become a certified single man again when I returned from deployment (State of California requires a 6-month & 1 day period from the initial file date, to finalize a divorce—my divorce finalized in early May 2004).

Upon returning from my deployment in June 2004 (although no longer as a SSgt, but a SrA), I fulfilled a few goals of becoming debt-free and had a brief period of piece-of-mind from just getting out of an ugly divorce just a month before. However, the most important goal, would forever be stripped away from me the remainder of my time in the Air Force—my potential career progression.

*****CIRCUMSTANTIAL OUTLOOK OF EVENTS THAT LEAD TO SECOND OFFENSE/ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION, IN RESULT:**

June/July 2004—Vandenberg AFB, California (after returning from deployment in Uzbekistan):

Regardless of the fact that my path of rank and career progression in my Air Force career was wrongly taken away from me by losing my newly acquired NCO status (pinned on SSgt in Sep 2003, reduced to SrA in May-June 2004) over an outright ridiculous misunderstanding of TCN escort security measure implementation in the Middle East (that I in the end took the "heat" for), I was still optimistic that it was possible my Air Force career still had some life left. I was extremely embarrassed of knowing I left Vandenberg AFB, CA a newly converted NCO, with an abundance of potential to becoming a future leader, and returned to it (Vandenberg AFB) in what I sincerely felt of myself as a failure, of being a SrA again that just had a short-lived benefit opportunity of being a SSgt while it lasted. While in many ways, I and the rest of my squadron chain-of-command, friends, and family believed my career growth was "temporarily" held back, I truly and mentally didn't get over the realization that MY CAREER (SSgt stripe)—that I had worked so hard and studied my heart and soul for, was taken away for something I might have only deserved a Letter of Reprimand/LOR for (at best) in Uzbekistan. In some ways after returning back to Vandenberg a SrA, I think momentarily for a span of a short period

of time, I lost sight of how important my Air Force career really was. In sincerely believing for a brief moment (in defense of my career viewpoint), if an O-6 commanding officer in charge of an Expeditionary Wing in Uzbekistan didn't have enough mercy within himself to warrant a lesser punishment for me other than taking my SSgt stripe/career away, why should I really continue to believe in my own career in the long run? That demotion hurt me emotionally and mentally inside, especially ranging from a vision that coming back from the desert a debt-free, single, problem-free, pumped-and-ready-to-lead NCO with a reborn career... was now over. The difference of the way I was looked at by Team Vandenberg fellow servicemembers in my squadron and around the base that I knew (the difference between before and after I returned from that overseas deployment), extremely disappointed me. I absolutely felt a growing passion of anger inside myself that my career was over (although my inner being showed others around me I still had potential and life in my Air Force career). I became careless in my priorities concerning moving on with what career I still had left, which is obviously one of the factors that brought upon my second and last run-in with trouble in my Air Force career. On a weekend night in July 2004, I attempted to enter Vandenberg AFB's main gate (Santa Maria gate) with my vehicle, after consuming alcoholic beverages at a local pub, just outside the installation's land jurisdiction in a nearby sub-city (Lompoc, CA). As I definitely know, along with the appointed members of the Air Force Discharge Review Board reading this, I made one of the dumbest and unthinkable mistakes I could have made in my already "thin-ice" Air Force career stature. Indeed, I was caught by the base's Security Forces personnel, and to really look at things in an exact perspective—the on-base DUI gave me a huge wake-up call in an instant, that my once promising career as a young SSgt NCO, had literally said goodbye to a lot sooner than a lot later.

In an instant, I became a 7 ½ year U.S. Air Force servicemember with an SSgt first-line supervisor/leadership opportunity of promise, to an Airman First Class/A1C worker-bee stature that I hadn't seen, since my first 1 ½ year in the Air Force... all in the course of 6 MONTHS of misfortune, unfocused thinking, stupidity, and a little bit of uneventful circumstantial stress. Yet in still, because my inner personality and continued potential (minus the last two misfortunate incidents of administrative action taken against me), my squadron (including my squadron commander, Lt Col:), supported me continuously, and still did not turn their backs on me. I think now how the year 2004 was so gruesome of a year for me, with lots of disappointments, let downs, stress, and uncertainty. However, I will never forget how the 2nd Range Operations Squadron and Lt Colonel: as squadron commander at Vandenberg Air Force Base, California, treated me like I still was a valuable asset to the unit and to the United States Air Force. Lt Col Richard Schoonmaker (my last commander on active duty) did not even pursue a "commander-discretionary" push to have me involuntarily discharged! My commander and the 2nd Range Operations Squadron at Vandenberg still truly believed (even after two "A-15's" and two reductions in grade), my overall inner potential overshadowed and outweighed the rather unwise, yet unfortunate mistakes of circumstance that occurred by my unfocused and unnerving actions. I, on the other hand, felt I made a great promising "run" in my pursuit of a prosperous and self-fulfilling active duty career in the United States Air Force. In being truly honest with myself in analyzing that exact point in my career, I knew with a reasonable amount of common sense, it was too much of an uphill climb for an A1C with an almost 8-year time-in-service stature, to continue to salvage a once bright and potentially exemplary Air Force career. I personally had a heartfelt and emotional meeting with my squadron commander, Lt Col: to request for him to approve my early separation (of which he in fact did, based on my reasoning I sincerely understood my career was going nowhere at that point). My last commander truly felt my on-base DUI was, in essence, my only hard swing at bat, regarding both offenses I was given NJP action and reductions in grade for. Even in an extra effort to fully support my early separation, Lt Col put together a separation package, to motion for a "Honorable" Discharge, of which was overturned by the Military Personnel Flight/MPF Separations section through direction of the Vandenberg AFB commander (Colonel Frank Gallegos)—to downgrade the discharge to a General (under Honorable Conditions) characterization. Regardless, as aforementioned, for as long as I live, in reflecting over the course of my active duty military service, I will never forget the undying appreciation and support the 2nd Range Operations Squadron and squadron commander (Lt Col:) showed me, throughout my tenure at Vandenberg AFB, California. I will deeply and sincerely miss my last assignment on active duty always, for I had lots of good times there that will forever shadow over the bad ones.

great deal of life-changing lessons in maintaining a good sense of bearing, integrity, judgment and accountability of my actions. My personal character of who I am inside and the many contributions, sacrifices, and loyalty I brought forth for the sake of the Air Force mission, within my pride, maturity, and potential for success, speaks greater volumes over a couple discerning incidents and their consequential lessons in my military career (that I have learned from with the utmost sincerity). As a civilian who will always have a small piece of the Air Force inside my heart, gives me great drive and determination to continue becoming the greatest person I can be and my potential for success. I believe the Air Force should grant me the coveted privilege of another chance to apply that potential for success in my present and future road to achieve excellence in all I do. I believe I deserve another chance, not only for myself, but in recognition of my own potential and abilities within me. I sincerely feel an upgrade to the rank of Senior Airman/SrA (E-4) and an Honorable characterization of discharge on my DD Form 214, would give me the tools to show the United States Air Force and myself, how good people continue to achieve great things, even after active duty service. This upgrade request I am hoping the appointed members of the Air Force Discharge Review Board will strongly consider and authorize/motion to approve, allows me to unveil in full force my maximum determination and drive to achieve my goals and dreams (originally/initially set forth to achieve on active duty). This rank/discharge upgrade gives me another chance to bring great credit to do myself proud (first and foremost), along with my family, my friends, the United States Air Force, and to my country. This upgrade allows me to have another chance to achieve my continued educational milestones, in addition to pursuing another chance in continuing my years of service to the United States Armed Forces on a part-time basis.

In closing, I, with all my inner sincerity, heart, inner being, drive, and on-going potential to achieve great lengths in my continued life and career path, am asking the appointed members of the United States Air Force Discharge Review Board in this final moment of testament on my behalf with heartfelt emotion, to strongly consider and authorize a rank upgrade to Senior Airman/SrA (E-4) and an "Honorable" characterization of service discharge on my DD Form 214 records. Please allow me this second chance to fulfill my maximum potential that the Air Force gave me this primary goal and privilege to achieve. Thank you to the Honorable appointed members of the United States Air Force Discharge Review Board (USAFDRB), for your consideration and possible approval/authorization to motion in favor of my rank/discharge characterization upgrade.

Most Sincerely,

San Diego, CA



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
30TH SPACE WING (AFSPC)



26 Sep 04

MEMORANDUM FOR A1C: [redacted]

FROM: 2ROPS/CC

SUBJECT: Notification Memorandum --Board Hearing

1. I am recommending your discharge from the United States Air Force for Misconduct: Minor Disciplinary Infractions. The authority for this action is AFPD 36-32, *Military Retirements and Separations*, and AFI 36-3208, *Administrative Separation of Airmen*, paragraph 5.49. Copies of the documents to be forwarded to the separation authority to support this recommendation are attached.

2. My reason for this action is:

a. On 2 Jun 04, you were derelict in the performance of duties in that you failed to escort the Third Country National employees that you were responsible for. As a result, you received non-judicial punishment consisting of reduction in rank to Senior Airman and suspended forfeitures of \$945.00 pay per month for two months.

b. On 10 Jul 04, you attempted to enter the main gate of Vandenberg AFB while driving under the influence. 30 SFS cited you for a violation of Art. 111, UCMJ, for drunk driving as your BrAC was .12, above the legal limit of .08. As a result, you received non-judicial punishment consisting of a reduction in rank to Airman First Class, as well as a vacation of the suspended non-judicial punishment.

3. This action could have resulted in your separation with an Under Other Than Honorable Conditions (UOTHOC) Discharge. However, at this time I am recommending that you receive an Under Honorable Conditions (General) Discharge. The commander exercising special court-martial jurisdiction or a higher authority will make the final decision in this matter. If you are discharged, you will be ineligible for reenlistment in the United States Air Force and will probably be denied enlistment in any component of the armed forces and any special pay, bonus, or education assistance funds may be subjected to recoupment.

4. You have the right to:

- a. Consult legal counsel.
- b. Present your case to an administrative discharge board.

- c. Be represented by legal counsel at a board hearing.
 - d. Submit statements in your behalf in addition to, or in lieu of, the board hearing.
 - e. Waive the above rights. You must consult legal counsel before making a decision to waive any of your rights.
5. You have been scheduled for a medical examination. You must report to Family Practice Clinic, 30 MDG on 29 Sep 04, at 1010 hours for the examination.
 6. You have the right to consult counsel. Military legal counsel has been obtained to assist you. You are to consult Captain: _____ at Bldg 8500, immediately after receiving this notification. Instead of the appointed counsel, you may have another, if the lawyer you request is in the active military service and is reasonably available as determined according to AFI 51-201, *Administration of Military Justice*. In addition to military counsel, you have the right to employ civilian counsel. The Air Force does not pay expenses incident to the employment of civilian counsel. Civilian counsel, if employed, must be readily available.
 7. Confer with your counsel and reply, in writing, within 7 workdays, specifying the rights you choose to exercise. The statement must be signed in the presence of your counsel who also will sign it. If you waive your right to a hearing before an administrative discharge board, you may submit written statements in your behalf. I will send the statements to the discharge authority with the case file to be considered with this recommendation. If you fail to respond, your failure will constitute a waiver of the right to the board hearing.
 8. Any personal information you furnish in rebuttal is covered by the Privacy Act of 1974. A copy of AFI 36-3208 is available for your use at the office of the Area Defense Counsel.
 9. If you request a board and you fail to appear without good cause, your failure to appear constitutes a waiver of your right to be present at the hearing.
 10. If you received advanced educational assistance, special pay, or bonuses, and have not completed the period of active duty you agreed to serve, you may be subject to recoupment.
 11. Execute the attached acknowledgment and return it to me immediately.

Commander

Attachments:

1. Supporting Documents
2. Receipt of Notification Memorandum