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AIR FORCE DISCHARGE REVIEW BOARD DECISIONAL RATIONALE

FD-2009-00088

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 and requests that the review be completed based on the available service record.

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

FINDINGS: The Board denies the upgrade of the discharge.

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.

ISSUES:

Issue 1. The applicant cited his desire to receive the G.I. Bill benefits as justification for upgrade. The DRB noted that when the applicant applied for these benefits he understood he must receive an Honorable discharge to receive future educational entitlements. The Board was sympathetic to the impact the loss of these benefits was having on the applicant, but this is not a matter of inequity or impropriety which would warrant an upgrade.

Issue 2. The record indicates that the applicant was discharged for Misconduct—Drug Abuse. He received an Article 15 for wrongful use of marijuana. The record shows that the applicant tested positive during a random drug urinalysis. He was later investigated during an OSI investigation and admitted to smoking marijuana. After a review of the record, the Board found no evidence to indicate that the applicant did not know right from wrong or that in his four years of service was unaware of the Air Force policy of zero tolerance to drug use. The Board found the negative aspects of the willful misconduct outweighed the positive aspects of the applicant's performance and concluded that the discharge was appropriate.

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 the applicant 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 and determines the discharge should remain unchanged.

Attachment: Examiner's Brief

APPLICATION FOR THE REVIEW OF DISCHARGE FROM THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES

(Please read instructions on Pages 3 and 4 BEFORE completing this application.)

OMB No. 0704-0004 OMB approval expires Oct 31, 2009

The public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 30 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing the burden, to the Department of Defense, Executive Services Directorate (0704-0004). Respondents should be aware that notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if it does not display a currently valid OMB control number. PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR FORM TO THE ABOVE ORGANIZATION. RETURN COMPLETED FORM TO THE APPROPRIATE ADDRESS ON BACK OF THIS PAGE.

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

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APPLICATION FOR THE REVIEW OF DISCHARGE FROM THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR I JRCE



20th FIGHTER WING (ACC) SHAW AIR FORCE BASE, SOUTH CAROLINA

3 0 APR **2003**

MEMORANDUM FOR	20 AMXS

FROM: 20 AMXS/CC

SUBJECT: Notification Memorandum

- 1. I am recommending your discharge from the United States Air Force for drug abuse. The authority for this action is AFPD 36-32 and AFI 36-3208, paragraph 5.54. If my recommendation is approved, your discharge will be characterized as Honorable or Under Honorable Conditions (General). I am recommending that your service be characterized as General.
- 2. My reason for this action is that at or near Shaw AFB South Carolina, between on or about 1 Mar 03 or about 24 Mar 03, you wrongfully used marijuana.
- 3. Copies of the documents to be forwarded to the separation authority in support of this recommendation are attached. The commander exercising special court-martial jurisdiction or a higher authority will decide whether you will be discharged or retained in the Air Force and, if you are discharged, how your service will be characterized. If you are discharged, you will be ineligible for reenlistment in the Air Force, and any special pay, bonus, or education assistance funds may be subject to recoupment.
- 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 the real Defense Counsel, 895-9530, on 30 Apr 03, at 1330 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 three days after receipt of the notification memorandum, 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 your final out-processing medical examination on _/_ Apr 03 at |300 hours. You will report to Primary Care, located in the Shaw AFB Hospital, at the time prescribed. This appointment is mandatory. If you must reschedule, contact your unit First Sergeant to reschedule the appointment for you. This examination must be carried out within 48 hours of the original appointment if the date must be rescheduled.

- 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 in the orderly room.
- 9. Execute the attached acknowledgment, and return it to me immediately.



Attachments:

- 1. AF Form 3070, 15 Apr 03 (Tab 4)
- 2. LOC, 3 Apr 03 (Tab 4a)
- 3. MFR, 2 Apr 03 (Tab 4a)
- 4. MFR, 3 July 02 (Tab 4a)
- 5. LOR, 17 Jan 02, (Tab 4a)
- 6. LOR, 19 Nov 01(Tab 4a)
- 7. AF Form 3070, 9 Mar 01 (4a)
- 8. Respondent's Receipt of Notification (Tab 5)

■EPARTMENT OF THE AIR FURCE



20th FIGHTER WING (ACC) SHAW AIR FORCE BASE, SOUTH CAROLINA

9 May 03

MEMOR.	ANDUM	FOR	CC

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SUBJECT: Legal Review of Proposed Discharge 20th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

- 1. <u>FINDING OF LEGAL SUFFICIENCY</u>. I reviewed the administrative discharge case file regarding the proposed discharge is supported by a preponderance of the evidence. There are no errors that prejudice a substantial right of the Respondent. The file is legally sufficient contingent upon completing his separation physical.
- 2. <u>BASIS FOR DISCHARGE</u> 20 AMXS/CC initiated discharge and recommends that be discharged from the Air Force under AFI 36-3208, paragraph 5.54, for drug abuse. The basis for proposed discharge is that between on or about 1 Mar 03 and on or about 24 Mar 03 ne wrongruny used marijuana.
- 3. <u>SERVICE HISTORY.</u> has been in the Air Force for three years and five months. He has three enlisted performance reports with overall ratings of 5,3, and 5.
- 4. <u>RESPONDENT'S CASE</u>. submissions are included at Tab 7. He states that he knows that he is entitled to submit statements in his behalf, however, he has waived his rights to submit a personal statement.
- 5. <u>DISCUSSION</u>. During a random drug demand reduction uninclusion tested positive for marijuana. During a resulting OSI interview, verbany admitted to using marijuana with other military members. Commanders may recommend waivers in drug abuse cases.

 as not made such a recommendation in this case. In making this determination, pursuant to AFI 36-3208, paragraph 6.60, a commander considers the totality of the circumstances, of which the retention criteria of paragraph 5.55.2 are only a part.

 that these circumstances include the sensitive nature of the position and the trust that has been lost.
- 6. CHARACTERIZATION OF SERVICE. A discharge characterized as Honorable, Under Honorable Conditions (General) or Under Other Than Honorable Conditions (UOTHC) can be approved in this case. The recommended that the service be characterized as General. A General discharge is appropriate if an airman's service has been honest and faithful but significant negative aspects of the airman's conduct or performance outweigh positive aspects of the airman's military record. The criminal use of marijuana and associated violation of trust constitute significant negative aspects that outweigh the positive aspects of

In addition, his previous serious misconduct includes lessent, underage discharge appropriately characterize

- 7. **PROBATION AND REHABILITATION (P&R).** Because the respondent's reason for being discharged is drug abuse, he is ineligible for P&R under AFI 36-3208, paragraph 7.2.6.
- 8. **OPTIONS.** As the Special Court-Martial Convening Authority in this case, you have the following options:
 - a. Disapprove the discharge action and retain the Respondent;
- b. Send the discharge package to the general court-martial convening authority with a recommendation that he separate the Respondent with an Honorable discharge;
 - c. Approve the discharge action and separate the Respondent with a General discharge; or
- d. Send the package back to the unit with a recommendation that the commander reinitiate the package with a recommendation for an Under Other Than Honorable Conditions discharge.
- 9. **RECOMMENDATION.** For the reasons set forth above, I recommend the Respondent be discharged from the United States Air Force for drug abuse under the provisions of AFI 36-3208, paragraph 5.54, with a General discharge.

Attachment: Case file