

Form No. 4
{See rule 11(1)}
ORDER SHEET
ARMED FORCES TRIBUNAL, REGIONAL BENCH, LUCKNOW
Court No.1

M.A. No. 687 of 2022 with M.A. No. 688 of 2022 Inre : O.A. No. 791 of 2021

Rect. Gaurav
By Legal Practitioner for the Applicant

Applicant

Versus

Union of India & Others
By Legal Practitioner for Respondents

Respondents

Notes of the Registry	Orders of the Tribunal
	<p><u>01.08.2022</u> <u>Hon'ble Mr. Justice Umesh Chandra Srivastava, Member (J)</u> <u>Hon'ble Vice Admiral Abhay Raghunath Karve, Member (A)</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Memo of Appearance filed by Shri Rajiv Pandey, Advocate on behalf of the respondents is taken on record.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Heard Shri R. Chandra, Advocate holding brief of Shri K.K. Singh Bisht, Ld. Counsel for the applicant and Shri Rajiv Pandey, Ld. Counsel for the respondents.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">For the facts averred in affidavit filed in support of delay condonation application, delay of 20 days in filing of Leave to Appeal is condoned. Delay condonation application stands disposed off.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">This is an application for leave to appeal under Section 30 read with Section 31 of the Armed Forces Tribunal Act, 2007. After perusing the orders impugned, we find that no much or less point of law of general public importance involved for grant leave to appeal.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Accordingly, Leave to Appeal is dismissed.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Vice Admiral Abhay Raghunath Karve) Member (A)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Justice Umesh Chandra Srivastava) Member (J)</p> <p>AKD/-</p>

Form No. 4
{See rule 11(1)}
ORDER SHEET
ARMED FORCES TRIBUNAL, REGIONAL BENCH, LUCKNOW
Court No.1

Ex. A. No. 80 of 2022 Inre : O.A. No. 411 of 2021

Sub. Ginesh Kuchukuttan Kurup
By Legal Practitioner for the Applicant

Applicant

Versus

Union of India & Others
By Legal Practitioner for Respondents

Respondents

Notes of the Registry	Orders of the Tribunal
	<p><u>01.08.2022</u> <u>Hon'ble Mr. Justice Umesh Chandra Srivastava, Member (J)</u> <u>Hon'ble Vice Admiral Abhay Raghunath Karve, Member (A)</u></p> <p>On the case being taken up for hearing Shri Shailendra Kumar Singh, Ld. Counsel for the applicant and Shri Yogesh Kesarwani, Ld. Counsel for the respondents are present.</p> <p>Shri Yogesh Kesarwani, Ld. Counsel appearing on behalf of respondents submits that in compliance of the order applicant was considered for promotion to rank of Subedar Major and being not found in merit the same has been rejected. He further submits that respondents will file affidavit of compliance within a week.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">List on 15.09.2022.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Vice Admiral Abhay Raghunath Karve) Member (A)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Justice Umesh Chandra Srivastava) Member (J)</p> <p>AKD/-</p>

Form No. 4
{See rule 11(1)}
ORDER SHEET
ARMED FORCES TRIBUNAL, REGIONAL BENCH, LUCKNOW
Court No.1

O.A. No. 187 of 2022

Hav/Clk Shyam Sunder
By Legal Practitioner for the Applicant

Applicant

Versus

Union of India & Others
By Legal Practitioner for Respondents

Respondents

Notes of the Registry	Orders of the Tribunal
	<p><u>01.08.2022</u> <u>Hon'ble Mr. Justice Umesh Chandra Srivastava, Member (J)</u> <u>Hon'ble Vice Admiral Abhay Raghunath Karve, Member (A)</u></p> <p>1. The instant Original Application has been filed on behalf of the applicant under Section 14 of the Armed Forces Tribunal Act, 2007, whereby the applicant has sought following reliefs:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) To direct the respondents to quash/set aside the impugned order dated 29.11.2021.(b) To consider the applicant for grant of discharge on medical grounds in view of his circumstances.(c) To grant such other relief appropriate to the facts and circumstances of the case as deemed fit and proper. <p>2. Brief facts of the case giving rise to this application are that applicant was enrolled in the Indian Army on 03.09.2005. While posted at Devlali he was placed in permanent low medical category P2 (permt) for 'Simple Obesity' w.e.f. 22.09.2021. Being placed in low medical category a Show Cause Notice dated 12.11.2021 was issued to him and he submitted reply on 12.11.2021 mentioning therein his unwillingness for continuation in service. Consequently, Officer Commanding of his unit furnished non-recommendation of the applicant's retention in service and his case was processed to respondent No 3 vide letter dated 16.11.2021 which was turned down vide letter dated 29.11.2021 on the ground of deficiency of clerical cadre. Being aggrieved, the applicant has filed the present Original Application for grant of premature retirement.</p> <p>3. Learned counsel for the applicant submitted that applicant was enrolled in the Indian Army on 03.09.2005. The applicant was medically examined on 22.09.2021 and was diagnosed as a case of 'Simple Obesity' due to which he</p>

was placed in permanent low medical category (LMC) S1H1A1P2(permt)E1. The said infirmity has impacted the applicant both physically and mentally. Nevertheless, the applicant continued rendering his service with his best efforts and performed each and every task assigned to him with due diligence. The applicant's parents are also dependent on him and are facing age related diseases and also he has to look after his cultivated land. The parents are unable to sustain their livelihood as they are dependent solely on farming and are unable to pursue the same owing to their old age and ailments. Therefore, applicant submitted an application dated 18.08.2020 (Annexure A-4) but its whereabouts was not known. On being placed in low medical category a Show Cause Notice dated 12.11.2021 was issued to applicant to which he replied on 21.11.2021 and requested that he be discharged from service. He further submitted that after receipt of reply to Show Cause Notice the competent authority issued speaking order dated 12.11.2021 but his case for premature discharge was turned down vide letter dated 29.11.2021 on the ground of deficiency in clerk cadre which is not justifiable as Para 20 (a) (iv) of Army Order 3/2001 and DGMS (Army) letter dated 06.07.2017 provides that an individual placed in permanent low medical category for obesity shall be discharged from service under Army Rule 13.

4. Learned counsel for the applicant has placed reliance on order dated 01.05.2013 passed by AFT, RB Kolkata in T.A. No. 29 of 2012, **Havildar Ashok Kumar Joshi vs Union of India & Ors**, order dated 22.03.1999 passed by Hon'ble Delhi High Court in **KS Bhimwal Mohs (Lt Col) vs Union of India & Anr**, 79 (1999) DLT 297, order dated 01.11.2018 passed by the Hon'ble Apex Court in Civil Appeal No 7822 of 2011, **Sanjay Jain vs Union of India & Ors**, The Hon'ble Supreme Court in **Central Inland Water Transport Corpn v Brojo Nath Ganguly**, (1986) 3 SCC 156 and Hon'ble Delhi High Court in **Major Rahul Shukla vs Union of India & Ors**, (1995) 34 DRJ 399 (DB). He pleaded that keeping in view of observations made in aforesaid pronouncements, applicant be granted discharge on medical grounds.

5. Heard Shri Manoj Kumar Awasthi, Ld. Counsel for the applicant and Ms. Anju Singh, Ld. Counsel for the respondents.

6. The applicant was enrolled in the Army on 03.09.2005. During the course of his service he was placed in medical category S1H1A1P2(P)E1 for disability 'Simple Obesity' and S1H1A1P3(T-24)E1 for disability 'Dyslipidemia' w.e.f. 22.09.2021. A Show Cause Notice dated 12.11.2021 was served on him to show cause as to why he should not be discharged from service being placed in low medical category. For convenience sake, Show Cause Notice dated 12.11.2021 is reproduced as under:-

- “1. Ref Med Bd Proceedings AFMSF-15 (Ver-2006) dt 30 Sep 2021.
2. You have been placed in permt low med cat S1H1A1P2(P)E1 wef 22 Sep 2021 for 'Simple Obesity' and cannot be suitably employed in

present trade or alternative employment and your retention is not recommended. You are hereby asked to show cause in writing, as why your service should not be terminated.

3. *Your reply should reach to this office by 15 Nov 2021”.*

7. In response to Show Cause Notice the applicant submitted his reply dated 12.11.2021 requesting the authorities to discharge him on medical ground as he was unwilling to continue in service. For convenience sake his reply dated 12.11.2021 is reproduced as under:-

“1. Please refer your letter No 02232/A/XX/AA dt 12 Nov 2021.

2. I, No 15789583Y Hav (Clk SD) Shyam Sundar of CATS would like to state that I have been placed in low med cat S1H1A1P2(P)E1 for the diag ‘simple obesity’ and S1H1A1P3(T-24)E1 wef 22 Sep 2021. I am unwilling to continue service either in my present trade work or in sheltered appointment in my permt low med cat.

3. In view of the above, I request to permit to disch on med grnd”.

8. Consequent to receipt of reply from the applicant a speaking order dated 12.11.2021 was issued by the Officer Commanding Troops which for convenience sake is reproduced as under:-

“1. Ref your reply to the Show Cause Notice letter 15789583Y/Pers/01 dt 12 Nov 2021.

2. I as a competent authority have carefully examined the reply submitted by you vide letter at para 1 above. You have been placed in permt low med cat S1H1A1P2(P)E1 for the diag ‘simple obesity’ wef 22 Sep 2021 vide med bd proceedings AFMSF-15 (Ver-2006) dt 30 Sep 2021.

3. Your retention is not recommended as unwillingness certificate has also been provided by you.

4. In view of the above, you are being discharged from service on med grnd being unwilling to continue service in permt low med cat”.

9. Accordingly, case for discharge of applicant was taken up with Army Avn Corps Records vide letter dated 16.11.2021 but Record Office vide letter dated 29.11.2021 advised to keep the applicant in sheltered appointment due to deficiency of clerical cadre in the Regiment on account of no recruitment during Covid-19 pandemic. Though the applicant was unwilling to continue in service, yet keeping in view the scenario at that time his retention in service was considered due to following reasons:-

(i) Due to ongoing Covid-19 pandemic situation recruitment process was suspended which resulted in deficiency in overall manpower.

(ii) The applicant was enrolled on 09.09.2005 and completed 17 years service. However, he was required to complete 24 years service as per terms and condition of his rank.

(iii) The applicant was in low medical category P2 (Permt) w.e.f. 22.09.2021 for disability ‘Simple Obesity’ which could not be considered an extreme compassionate ground. He was recommended to be retained in service to mitigate deficiency in clerical cadre.

10. Thus, considering all aspects in view, it emerges that the applicant does not want to serve in the Army owing to his health as well as deteriorating

health of his parents and respondents are not discharging him due to shortage of manpower in clerical cadre.

11. In view of the above, we direct the respondents to re-consider applicant's request for premature discharge from service.

12. With the aforesaid observation, the O.A. is disposed of.

13. No order as to costs.

14. Miscellaneous applications, pending if any, stand disposed of.

(Vice Admiral Abhay Raghunath Karve)
Member (A)

(Justice Umesh Chandra Srivastava)
Member (J)

rathore

Form No. 4
{See rule 11(1)}
ORDER SHEET
ARMED FORCES TRIBUNAL, REGIONAL BENCH, LUCKNOW
Court No.1

O.A. No. 336 of 2022

Ex. Gnr. Ravindra Kumar Singh Yadav
By Legal Practitioner for the Applicant

Applicant

Versus

Union of India & Others
By Legal Practitioner for Respondents

Respondents

Notes of the Registry	Orders of the Tribunal
	<p><u>01.08.2022</u> <u>Hon'ble Mr. Justice Umesh Chandra Srivastava, Member (J)</u> <u>Hon'ble Vice Admiral Abhay Raghunath Karve, Member (A)</u></p> <p>On the case being taken up for hearing Shri Shiv Kumar Saroj and Shri V.P. Pandey, Ld. Counsel for the applicant and Shri Rajesh Shukla, Ld. Counsel for the respondents are present.</p> <p>As prayed by learned counsel for the respondents, list on 13.09.2022.</p> <p>(Vice Admiral Abhay Raghunath Karve) (Justice Umesh Chandra Srivastava) Member (A) Member (J)</p> <p>rathore</p>

Form No. 4
{See rule 11(1)}
ORDER SHEET
ARMED FORCES TRIBUNAL, REGIONAL BENCH, LUCKNOW
Court No.1

O.A. No. 274 of 2021

Hav Vikash Prasad
By Legal Practitioner for the Applicant

Applicant

Versus

Union of India & Others
By Legal Practitioner for Respondents

Respondents

Notes of the Registry	Orders of the Tribunal
	<p><u>01.08.2022</u> <u>Hon'ble Mr. Justice Umesh Chandra Srivastava, Member (J)</u> <u>Hon'ble Vice Admiral Abhay Raghunath Karve, Member (A)</u></p> <p>1. This O.A. has been filed on behalf of the applicant under Section 14 of the Armed Forces Tribunal Act, 2007 by which applicant has made the following prayers:-</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(i) <i>Issue/pass an order setting aside the order of dismissal of the applicant from service as orally intimated on 29.01.2021 on behalf of the Commanding Officer, 26 Mechanised Infantry, after summoning the relevant original records.</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(ii) <i>Issue/pass an order directing the respondents to consider case of the applicant for pre-mature discharge on own request after reinstatement and continuity of service with other consequential service benefits.</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(iii) <i>Issue/pass any other order or direction as this Hon'ble Tribunal may deem fit in the circumstances of the case.</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(iv) <i>Allowing this application with cost.</i></p> <p>2. Brief facts of the case are that the applicant was enrolled in Mechanised Infantry of the Indian Army. While serving with 55 (Independent) Mechanised Brigade, on account of his family problems, he submitted an application dated 06.03.2017 (Annexure A-1) for premature discharge which was returned vide letter dated 30.03.2017 (Annexure A-2). Thereafter, applicant submitted applications to various authorities of the respondents mentioning his problems and requesting them for his premature discharge from the Army. In response to his request respondent No 3 intimated vide letter dated 09.06.2017 (Annexure A-3) that he has completed 14 years and 04 months service whereas for processing of premature discharge application minimum 15 years service is required. It was also informed that process of premature discharge could take a minimum of 02 years as there was a waiting list in this regard. After completion of 15 years service, applicant once again submitted application dated 20.09.2018 (Annexure A-4) for his premature discharge from the Army mentioning therein numerous personal problems being faced by him which is still pending.</p>

3. While serving under respondent No 5 applicant sought leave on account of his father's ailment and sickness of his wife. Since no leave for the year 2018 was balance to his credit, he was granted 30 days advance of annual leave for the year 2019 w.e.f. 15.10.2018 to 13.11.2018 and he was to report back to unit on 14.11.2018. While at home he was stranded due to various family problems and it was not possible for him to report to his unit for duty on 14.11.2018, therefore about ten days before expiry of leave the applicant requested his Commanding Officer for extension of leave which as per applicant was orally assured.

4. Earlier in regard to his premature discharge from service his wife wrote a letter dated 17.05.2018 to the Hon'ble Defence Minister. In regard to this application the applicant was interviewed by Colonel of the Regiment and Officer-in-Charge Records and he was informed that due to prevailing shortage of clerical cadre in the Regiment as also due to premature discharge ban imposed vide letter dated 03.11.2020, his premature discharge was not feasible at that time and his application for premature discharge may be considered after June 2019 or on improvement of strength of clerks in the Regiment.

5. After expiry of leave when the applicant did not report to his unit, apprehension roll was issued. A Court of Inquiry (C of I) was conducted which declared him a deserter w.e.f. 14.11.2018. He reported voluntarily to Mechanised Infantry Regimental Centre, Ahmednagar on 14.04.2019 at 0800 hrs and he was issued a movement order dated 14.04.2019 with directions to report to his parent unit. However, he was not allowed to report to his unit. On receiving letter dated 27.08.2020 applicant again reported to the unit alongwith his wife on 29.01.2021 but was denied entry and he was verbally told that he was dismissed from service. Later, during pendency of this O.A. he was dismissed from service w.e.f. 14.11.2021 in terms of Army Order 43/2001/V and Army Act Section 20 (3). This O.A. has been filed to set aside oral dismissal order dated 29.01.2021 and grant him premature discharge on own request after re-instatement.

6. Learned counsel for the applicant submitted that the applicant was enrolled in the Army on 18.01.2003. On 06.03.2017 he submitted an application for premature discharge on extreme compassionate grounds but it was turned down by the respondents vide letter dated 30.03.2017. He further submitted that on account of facing grave family problems vis-à-vis military duties, he submitted another application dated 09.06.2017 for premature discharge but that too was turned down on the ground that he did not complete minimum 15 years pensionable service. He submitted that after completion of 15 years of service he again submitted application dated 20.09.2018 for premature discharge but the said application is still pending.

7. Learned counsel for the applicant further submitted that while on leave for the period 14.10.2018 to 13.11.2018 applicant's father and wife suffered sickness and due to this he could not rejoin his unit after completion of aforesaid leave. He submitted that prior to expiry of leave the applicant spoke to his Commanding Officer for extension of leave which was verbally accepted. His other version is that during stay at home his financial condition deteriorated due to expensive treatment of his father and withdrawn amount from AFPP fund exhausted and he had to sale portion of his ancestral land to get rid of the grave financial difficulties.

8. Learned counsel for the applicant further submitted that after getting some relief from his domestic problems he once again called the unit authorities in the month of April 2019 but he was orally informed that he has been declared a deserter and his service documents were despatched to Record Office. He further submitted that thereafter the applicant visited to Record Office on 14.04.2019 and on same day he was handed over a movement order to report to his unit. Accordingly, he reported to his unit on 15.04.2019 but he was not allowed to enter the unit premises. He returned to his home and submitted representations dated 29.05.2019 and 27.07.2020. Later, he was informed by Record Office vide letter dated 27.08.2020 that he should report to his parent unit to resolve the issue. His submission is that after receipt of letter dated 27.08.2020 he alongwith his wife visited the unit on 29.01.2021 but were not allowed to enter the unit premises. He pleaded for setting aside the dismissal order and grant of premature discharge from service.

9. On the other hand, learned counsel for the respondents submitted that the applicant was on 30 days advance of annual leave upto 13.11.2018 and he did not report to his unit after expiry of leave. Accordingly, apprehension roll was initiated and a C of I was conducted which declared him a deserter. He further submitted that on account of his various representations he was interviewed by Colonel Commandant and Officer-in-Charge Records. He was informed to wait till September, 2019 and apply for compassionate posting or attachment on compassionate ground till situation improved.

10. Learned counsel for the respondents further submitted that after expiry of leave the applicant was contacted but his mobile number was found switched off. The learned counsel admitted that the applicant reported to Record Office on 14.04.2019 and a movement order was issued to report to his parent unit but he did not report there and went to his home. He submitted that on receipt of various representations from the applicant he was informed vide letter dated 27.08.2020 to report to his parent unit but he failed to do so. His other submission is that the applicant could not be granted premature discharge from service due to impact of global pandemic (Covid-19) on

recruitment and deficiency in the Indian Army and for that higher authorities vide letter dated 03.11.2020 have imposed partial ban for premature discharge upto March, 2023. His submission is that since the applicant was declared a deserter and never returned, he has been dismissed from service w.e.f. 14.11.2021 after three years of desertion, therefore the O.A. is liable to be dismissed.

11. Heard Shri Yashpal Singh, Ld. Counsel for the applicant and Shri Amit Jaiswal, Ld. Counsel for the respondents and perused the material placed on record.

12. Applicant was enrolled in the Army on 18.01.2003. While serving with 26 Mechanised Infantry he was on 30 days leave upto 13.11.2018 and he was to rejoin the unit on 14.11.2018 which he could not rejoin due to his domestic compulsions and treatment of his father. Failing to rejoin his unit, apprehension roll was issued and after 30 days C of I was conducted which declared him a deserter.

13. Applicant approached various authorities for considering his premature discharge. In this regard he was interviewed by Colonel Commandant and Officer-in-Charge Records and he was advised to wait till situation with regard to deficiency of clerks improves. On 14.04.2019 the applicant reported to Record Office and he was issued a movement order. On 15.04.2019 he reported to his unit but was denied. In support of his movement from home to Record Office and from Record Office to the unit and back, he has produced railway tickets indicating that he reported the Army Authorities and a movement order to this effect was issued. Applicant's contention is that he reported to the unit on the authority of movement order dated 14.04.2019 but was denied to enter the unit premises on the behest of the Commanding Officer seems to be logical that he produced railway tickets in support of his journey.

14. On applicant's representations dated 29.05.2019 and 27.07.2019 and his wife's representation dated 10.10.2020 applicant received letter dated 27.08.2020 intimating that he has been declared a deserter w.e.f. 14.11.2018. Thereafter, on 29.01.2021 he alongwith his wife proceeded to his unit to rejoin the duty but was not permitted and informed orally that he has been dismissed from service. In support of his claim for visiting the unit applicant has produced railway reservation slip dated 23.01.2021.

15. We find that the applicant had submitted application for premature discharge but due to administrative reasons his application was turned down keeping in view of Covid-19 pandemic and deficiency of clerk cadre in the unit. We also find that despite being declared a deserter w.e.f. 14.11.2018 the applicant was taken on strength by Record Office on 14.04.2019 and a movement order was issued for his reporting to unit, but he was denied. We further notice that applicant has sufficient proof to establish that he reported the Record Office and a movement order was issued. In this regard respondents'

contention in para 28 of their counter affidavit that during pendency of O.A. applicant has been dismissed from service, in terms of Army Act Section 20 (3) and Army Order 43/2001/DV, w.e.f. 14.11.2021 after completion of 3 years from the date of desertion is not sustainable as he was present in the Record Office on 14.04.2019 where he was issued a movement order.

16. Thus, keeping in view that the applicant made persistent efforts for premature discharge after completion of pensionable service and the fact that he made constant efforts to rejoin the unit and he being issued a movement order dated 14.04.2019 by Record Office and having sufficient proof of his travel to his parent unit, an inference may be drawn that the applicant did not desert the unit but overstayed leave due to his domestic problems.

17. The respondents have not brought on record any document showing that the applicant has been dismissed from service but it has been mentioned in para 28 of their counter affidavit that the applicant has been dismissed from service.

18. In view of the above, the respondents should not have passed applicant's dismissal order dated 14.11.2021, as stated in para 28 of their counter affidavit, which in our opinion is per-se illegal and deserves to be set aside. It is set aside accordingly.

19. We are further of the view that since the applicant has completed pensionable service, he may be discharged from service with all consequential benefits w.e.f. the date he was declared a deserter. The respondents are directed to pay pension and consequential benefits within a period of four months on receipt of certified copy of this order. Default will invite interest @ 8% p.a.

20. In view of the above, O.A. is **allowed**.

21. No order as to costs.

22. Miscellaneous applications, pending if any, stand disposed of.

(Vice Admiral Abhay Raghunath Karve)
Member (A)

(Justice Umesh Chandra Srivastava)
Member (J)

rathore

