

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE DEFENSE LEGAL SERVICES AGENCY DEFENSE OFFICE OF HEARINGS AND APPEALS APPEAL BOARD POST OFFICE BOX 3656 ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22203 (703) 696-4759

Date: May 10, 2023

In the matter of:)
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))
Applicant for Security Clearance)

WHS-C Case No. 23-00032-R

APPEAL BOARD DECISION

APPEARANCES

FOR GOVERNMENT

James B. Norman, Esq., Chief Department Counsel

FOR APPLICANT Pro se

On April 19, 2022, the Department of Defense (DoD) issued a statement of reasons (SOR) pursuant to DoD Manual 5200.02 (Apr. 3, 2017, as amended) (DoDM 5200.02) advising Applicant that her conduct raised security concerns under Guideline F (Financial Considerations), Guideline G (Alcohol Consumption) and Guideline J (Criminal Conduct) of the National Security Adjudicative Guidelines. Applicant answered the SOR in an undated document.

On October 6, 2022, DoD Consolidated Adjudication Services (CAS) revoked Applicant's eligibility for access to classified information, and she appealed that revocation under the provisions of DoDM 5200.02. On December 2, 2022, Under Secretary of Defense (Intelligence & Security) Ronald Moultrie issued a memorandum requiring that DoD civilian or military personnel whose clearance eligibility was revoked or denied between September 30, 2022, and the date of that memorandum be provided the opportunity to pursue the hearing and appeal process set forth in DoD Directive 5220.6 (Jan. 2, 1992, as amended) (Directive).

As a result of Secretary Moultrie's memo, Applicant was given the opportunity to receive the process set forth in the Directive, and she elected that process. On March 16, 2023, after close of the record, Defense Office of Hearings and Appeals Administrative Judge LeRoy F. Foreman found favorably for Applicant on the Guideline G and Guideline J allegations, found adversely on all but one of the Guideline F allegations, and denied Applicant's request for a security clearance. Applicant appealed pursuant to Directive ¶¶ E3.1.28 and E3.1.30.

On appeal, Applicant make no assertion of harmful error on the part of the Judge. Instead, she requests reconsideration of the Judge's decision, provides additional context about the circumstances surrounding her financial issues, and emphasizes the support of senior colleagues. The Appeal Board does not review cases *de novo* and is prohibited from considering new evidence on appeal. Directive E3.1.29. The Board's authority to review a case is limited to cases in which the appealing party has alleged the Judge committed harmful error. Because Applicant has not made such an allegation of error, the decision of the Judge denying Applicant a security clearance is sustainable.

Order

The decision is **AFFIRMED**.

Signed: James F. Duffy James F. Duffy Administrative Judge Chair, Appeal Board

<u>Signed: Moira Modzelewski</u> Moira Modzelewski Administrative Judge Member, Appeal Board

Signed: Allison Marie Allison Marie Administrative Judge Member, Appeal Board