

## AIR FORCE DISCHARGE REVIEW BOARD DECISIONAL DOCUMENT

**SUMMARY:** The applicant was discharged on 22 April 2019 in accordance with AFI 36-3208 with a “General” discharge after “Misconduct (Drug Abuse).” The applicant appealed for a change to the discharge narrative reason.

The applicant was not represented by counsel.

The applicant requested the board be completed based on a records review only. The Board was conducted on 16 March 2023.

The attached examiner’s brief (provided to applicant only), extracted from available service records, contains pertinent data regarding the circumstances and character of the applicant’s military service.

**DISCUSSION:** The Air Force Discharge Review Board (AFDRB), under its responsibility to examine the propriety and equity of an applicant’s discharge, is authorized to change the characterization of service and the narrative reason for discharge if such changes are warranted. If applicable, the board can also change the applicant’s reenlistment eligibility code. In reviewing discharges, the board presumes regularity in the conduct of governmental affairs unless there is substantial credible evidence to rebut the presumption, to include evidence submitted by the applicant. The Board completed a thorough review of the circumstances that led to the discharge and the discharge process to determine if the discharge met the pertinent standards of equity and propriety.

The applicant’s record of service included an Article 15. His misconduct included wrongful use of marijuana.

The applicant requested a change to his narrative reason. He stated that the current narrative reason “Misconduct (Drug Abuse)” has made it difficult for him to find employment. He stated he has had no criminal or drug charges since his discharge. He indicated his marijuana use was a one-time incident and firmly believes that considering President Biden’s recent pardon of all federal marijuana possession charges, some leniency with his situation should be justified. He stated that perhaps it would be possible to remove the “drug abuse” part of the narrative or change it altogether to something less harsh/misleading.

The AFDRB concluded that the applicant admitted to using marijuana on three (3) separate occasions. In addition, he did not give the Board any other information to consider clemency the Under Secretary of Defense memorandum, Guidance to Military Discharge Review Boards and Boards for Correction of Military/Naval Records Regarding Equity, Injustice, or Clemency Determinations, dated 25 June 2018, known as the “Wilkie Memo.” The Board found the negative aspects of the applicant’s willful misconduct outweighed the positive aspects of his military service.

**FINDING:** The AFDRB voted unanimously to *deny* the applicant’s request to change the discharge narrative reason to “Secretarial Authority.”

**CONCLUSION:** After a thorough review of the available evidence, to include the Applicant’s issues, summary of service, service/medical record entries, and discharge process, the Board found the discharge was proper and equitable. Therefore, the awarded characterization of service shall remain “General,” the narrative reason for separation shall remain “Misconduct (Drug Abuse),” and the reentry code shall remain “2B.” The AFDRB results were approved by the board president on 04 May 2023. If desired, the applicant can request a list of the board members and their votes by writing to:

Air Force Review Boards Agency  
Attn: Discharge Review Board  
3351 Celmers Lane  
Joint Base Andrews, NAF Washington, MD 20762-6602

Should the applicant wish to appeal this decision, the applicant must request a personal appearance before this Board before applying for relief to the Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records (AFBCMR). In accordance with DAFI 36-2603, Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records, all applicants before the AFBCMR must first exhaust available administrative avenues of relief before applying to the AFBCMR, otherwise their AFBCMR case will be administratively closed until such time that the applicant avails themselves of the available avenue of relief. Therefore, should the applicant wish to appeal this decision, they must first exercise their right to make a personal appearance before the AFDRB.

Instructions on how to appeal an AFDRB decision can be found at  
<https://afrbportal.azurewebsites.us>

Attachment:  
Examiner's Brief (Applicant Only)