

**SUMMARY:** The Applicant was discharged on 24 September 2019 in accordance with Air Force Instruction 36-3208, *Administrative Separation of Airmen*, with a Under Honorable Conditions - (General) discharge for Misconduct (Drug Abuse). The Applicant appealed for an upgrade of their discharge characterization.

The Applicant requested the Board be completed based on a records only review. The Board was conducted on 07 November 2024. The Applicant was not represented by counsel.

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 Discharge Review Board (DRB), 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 reenry 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 the following documented misconduct leading up to their discharge: an Article 15 for the wrongful use of marijuana.

The documentary evidence the Board considered as part of the review includes but is not limited to the DD Form 293, *Application for the Review of Discharge from the Armed Forces of the United States*, and any additional documentation submitted by applicant and/or counsel; the Applicant's personnel file from the Automated Records Management System (ARMS); and the DRB Brief detailing the Applicant's service information and a summary of the case.

The Applicant requested an upgrade to their discharge, explaining that they were 17 years old and admittedly immature when they enlisted. After moving off base with friends, they were persuaded to experiment with marijuana, which was later detected during a routine urinalysis. The Applicant took responsibility for their actions, admitting their mistake to their commander and requesting a second chance; however, they were subsequently discharged. Now, at 23 years old, the Applicant expressed a greater level of maturity and a clear understanding of the seriousness of their past actions. They sought a second chance to rejoin the Air Force, specifically aiming to work in food services. They believed an upgraded discharge would also improve their eligibility for higher-level government career opportunities.

The DRB determined that although the Applicant cited youthful immaturity and accepted responsibility for their actions, the Board emphasized that drug use directly contradicts military standards and values. Many peers in similar age groups successfully uphold these standards, underscoring that youth alone does not justify misconduct.

The Board also noted that the Applicant provided no supporting documentation to demonstrate progress, rehabilitation efforts, or accomplishments since discharge, which limited the Board's ability to apply Wilke Factors. The lack of evidence of inequity, impropriety, or significant post-discharge achievements led the Board to conclude that the general discharge for "Misconduct (Drug Abuse)" was appropriate and did not warrant an upgrade.

Additionally, the Board considered the factors laid out in the attachment to 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 considered the factors listed in paragraphs (6)(a)-(6)(l) and (7)(a)-(7)(r) of this memorandum and found no evidence of inequity or impropriety.

**FINDING:** The DRB voted unanimously to *deny* the Applicant’s request to upgrade their discharge characterization.

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.

**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 “Under Honorable Conditions - (General),” the narrative reason for separation shall remain “Misconduct (Drug Abuse),” and the reentry code shall remain “2B.” The DRB results were approved by the Presiding Officer on 15 November 2024. 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, MD 20762-6435

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

Attachment:  
Examiner's Brief (Applicant Only)