

AIR FORCE DISCHARGE REVIEW BOARD DECISIONAL DOCUMENT	CASE NUMBER FD-2023-00173
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SUMMARY: The applicant was discharged on 27 August 2012 in accordance with Air Force Instruction 36-3208, *Administrative Separation of Airmen*, with an Honorable discharge for Reduction in Force. The applicant appealed for a change to his discharge narrative reason.

The applicant was not represented by counsel.

The applicant requested the board be completed based on a records only review. The Board was conducted on 03 August 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 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 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 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 contended he had undiagnosed post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) while serving in the Air Force. He claimed to have witnessed multiple traumatic events while deployed to Iraq that caused the PTSD. He further claimed he sought treatment for his symptoms but was not taken seriously. He began to self-medicate with alcohol causing weight gain and issues with physical fitness testing and ultimately led to his discharge for high year tenure. He claimed he has since been diagnosed by the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) with PTSD and given a 100% disability rating.

The applicant requested his discharge be changed to a medical separation/retirement. Requests to change an administrative discharge to a medical discharge are outside the scope of authority of the DRB. Should the applicant elect to continue to pursue a medical discharge, he is encouraged to exercise his right to appeal the DRB's decision to the Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records.

LIBERAL CONSIDERATION:

Due to evidence of a mental health condition found in the applicant's medical record, the Board considered the case based on the liberal consideration (LC) standards required by guidance from the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness and 10 USC §1553. The Board included a member who is a physician, clinical psychologist, or psychiatrist. Specifically, the Board reviewed the four questions the Under Secretary of Defense provided that boards should consider when weighing evidence in requests for modification of discharges due in whole or in part to mental health conditions, including post-traumatic

stress disorder (PTSD); Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI); sexual assault, and sexual harassment. Since the applicant requested his administrative discharge be changed to a medical discharge, a request outside the scope of the DRB, the Board determined liberal consideration did not apply as there is no relief the DRB can grant the applicant.

FINDING: The DRB voted unanimously to *deny* the applicant's request to change narrative reason. The DRB also voted unanimously to *deny* changing the reenlistment eligibility code.

Should the applicant wish to appeal this decision, the applicant must seek relief before the Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records (AFBCMR) in accordance with DAFI 36-2603, *Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records*.

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, the narrative reason for separation shall remain, and the reentry code shall remain. The Air Force DRB (AFDRB) results were approved by the board president on 09 August 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
Instructions on how to appeal an AFDRB decision can be found at
<https://afrbportal.azurewebsites.us>

Attachment:
Examiner's Brief (Applicant Only)

