

AIR FORCE DISCHARGE REVIEW BOARD DECISIONAL DOCUMENT

SUMMARY: The applicant was discharged on 11 June 2019 in accordance with Air Force Instruction 36-3208, *Administrative Separation of Airmen*, with an Honorable discharge for Completion of Required Service. The applicant appealed for a change to her reentry code.

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 14 September 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 her reentry code was incorrect. She claimed at the time she separated she was "issued" a Medical Evaluation Board (MEB) and denied the board because she no longer suffered from back pain. She claimed there was not a pending evaluation because she denied the MEB long before her separation and her current reentry code did not reflect her physical fitness at the time of her separation. She requested her reentry code be changed claiming her current code limits her job opportunities. The applicant submitted some medical records from a civilian provider she had seen since her discharge that cleared her for work without limitations or restrictions.

A review of the applicant's records revealed she had chronic low back pain which started in 2013. She also continued treatment with a physiatrist and chiropractor after leaving the military in June 2019. The applicant's military records reflected she had this condition when she was discharged, and she is now service-connected for low back pain by the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA).

According to Air Force policy service members cannot decline a MEB. Long chronic problems are sent to a MEB because they affect mobility, ability to perform duties, and fitness. The applicant's records reflected she did meet a MEB on 14 Jan 2019. She voluntarily separated in June 2019 at the end of her term of service and the applicant's MEB results were not finalized. Therefore, the DRB determined the applicant's reentry code was proper as despite not seeing the MEB to the end she did have a pending MEB when she separated.

FINDING: The DRB voted unanimously to *deny* the applicant's request to change her reentry code.

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 "Honorable," the narrative reason for separation shall remain "Completion of Required Service," and the reentry code shall remain "4K." The Air Force DRB (AFDRB) results were approved by the board president on 10 October 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)