

AIR FORCE DISCHARGE REVIEW BOARD DECISIONAL DOCUMENT

SUMMARY: The applicant was discharged on 07 August 2019 in accordance with Air Force Instruction 36-3208, *Administrative Separation of Airmen*, with an Entry Level Separation (ELS) for Failed Physical/Medical Procurement Standards. The applicant appealed for an upgrade of his discharge characterization and a change to the separation code.

The applicant requested the board be completed based on a records only review. The Board was conducted on 05 October 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 reentry 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 suffered hearing loss while attending basic military training and his discharge was characterized incorrectly. He claimed he is being denied benefits and requested an upgrade and a change to his separation code.

A review of the applicant's record revealed he failed a hearing test while attending basic military training. The medical staff determined he did not meet medical standards to enlist according to DoDI 6130.03, *Medical Standards for Appointment, Enlistment, or Induction in the Military Services*. A waiver was not granted, and he was discharged with an ELS.

The available evidence also revealed the applicant's hearing loss was noted during his enlistment physical. The Board concluded the applicant's condition existed prior to service and was a disqualifying condition, therefore, he should not have been allowed to enlist. Based on the available evidence, the Board determined the applicant's type of separation, narrative reason, and reentry and separation codes were proper and equitable.

The applicant requested his uncharacterized Entry Level Separation be upgraded to "Honorable." However, this would violate current Air Force policy IAW AFI 36-3208, which states Airmen are in entry level status during the first 180 days of continuous active military service, and if a separation action is initiated during this time, they will receive an entry level separation without service characterization. Therefore, the applicant's request to "upgrade" to "Honorable" could not be approved.

FINDING: The DRB voted unanimously to *deny* the applicant's request to upgrade his discharge characterization and to change the separation code. The DRB also voted unanimously to *deny* changing the discharge narrative reason and the 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 "Entry Level Separation," the narrative reason for separation shall remain "Failed Medical/Physical Procurement Standards," and the reentry code shall remain "4C." The Air Force DRB (AFDRB) results were approved by the board president on 06 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)