

**AIR FORCE DISCHARGE REVIEW BOARD DECISIONAL DOCUMENT**

**SUMMARY:**

The applicant was discharged on 25 April 2022 in accordance with Air Force Instruction 36-3208, *Administrative Separation of Airmen*, with a General Discharge for Misconduct (Drug Abuse). The applicant appealed for an upgrade of his discharge characterization, a change to the discharge narrative reason, and a change to the reentry code.

The applicant was represented by counsel.

The applicant requested the board be completed based on a records only review. The Board was conducted on 09 November 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 applicant's record of service included an Article 15. His misconduct included: Wrongfully used 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, through counsel, contended impropriety, and indicated that there was an error of discretion in the discharge due to the applicant's appeal and presentation. They explained that at no time did he smoke marijuana and the ingestion was incidental exposure as a result of use by civilian family members. They stated that wrongful use requires an intentional act, and accidental ingestion does not rise to this level of culpability. They also contended inequity due to the applicant's successful military career and positive post-service conduct.

The DRB reviewed the applicant's entire service record and found no evidence of impropriety or inequity to warrant an upgrade of the discharge. The applicant through counsel did not provide sufficient evidence to the contrary that would warrant an upgrade to the discharge. The applicant was fully aware of the Air Force policy of zero tolerance for illegal drug use. Whether the ingestion was incidental or willful, the applicant tested positive for an illegal substance. The Board was pleased to see the applicant has been successful since leaving the Air Force. It also took note of the applicant's duty performance during service. However, it found the seriousness of the applicant's misconduct offset the positive aspects of his service.

**FINDING:** The DRB voted unanimously to *deny* the applicant's request to upgrade his discharge characterization, to change the discharge narrative reason, and to change 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 "General," the narrative reason for separation shall remain "Misconduct (Drug Abuse)," and the reentry code shall remain "2B." The Air Force DRB (AFDRB) results were approved by the board president on 20 November 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)