

AIR FORCE DISCHARGE REVIEW BOARD DECISIONAL DOCUMENT

SUMMARY:

The applicant was discharged on 09 June 2023 in accordance with Air Force Instruction 36-3211, *Military Separations*, with an Entry Level Separation discharge for Failed Medical/Physical Procurement Standards. The applicant appealed for an upgrade of his discharge characterization, a change to the discharge separation code, and a change to the 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 07 December 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 requested an upgrade to the reentry code, which denotes "concealing juvenile records, or minority, failing to meet physical standards for enlistment; or failing to obtain a 9.0 reading grade level," which is false. He indicated that all medical history was disclosed and communicated to his recruiter and MEPS personnel prior to Basic Military Training. He also requested an upgrade to the separation code because it states "erroneous" enlistment; medical condition disqualifying for military service, with no medical waiver approved", as it is improper. The applicant concluded that he has never been diagnosed with ocular migraines, does not have a history of having any complex migraines or severe headaches.

After a comprehensive review of the evidence and considering input from the medical advisor, the Board determined that the Narrative Reason and reentry code were inequitable. The Board found that the diagnosis which resulted in the applicant's discharge was erroneous, and further medical workup should have been performed to confirm a diagnosis.

The applicant requested his uncharacterized Entry Level Separation be upgraded to "Honorable." However, this would violate current Air Force policy IAW DoDI 1332.14, *Enlisted Administrative Separations*, which states Airmen are in entry level status during the first 365 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 *approve* the applicant’s discharge narrative reason, and to change the reentry code. The Board did not upgrade 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 improper. Therefore, the awarded characterization of service shall remain “Entry Level Separation” the narrative reason to “Secretarial Authority” and the reentry code shall change to “3K”. The Air Force DRB (AFDRB) results were approved by the presiding officer on 18 December 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)