

AIR FORCE DISCHARGE REVIEW BOARD DECISIONAL DOCUMENT

SUMMARY:

The applicant was discharged on 06 January 2023 in accordance with Air Force Instruction 36-3211, *Military Separations*, General Discharge for Misconduct (Drug Abuse). 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 applicant's record of service included an Article 15. His misconduct included: Wrongful use of Drostanolone, Dehydrocholormethytestosterone, Anastrozole, and Epintrebolone, all schedule III-controlled substances.

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 his characterization of service, which denotes an Under Honorable Conditions (General). The applicant underwent a urine analysis for Steroids. The Applicant states the urinalysis was approved based on the reports and testimony of several members. Following collaboration with Legal and the applicant's attorney, it was revealed that the statement or claim originated from a single individual. Upon receiving the test results from the drug testing lab, a positive screen for "traces" of steroids was detected. The applicant asserts that he took diligent measures before using the supplements, ensuring they were approved and bore the FDA stamp to avoid jeopardizing their Air Force career. They maintain that they would not have taken the supplements had they been aware of their banned status. Additionally, the applicant highlights their numerous awards within the Squadron and positive character reference letters in their file.

After conducting a thorough review of the evidence and considering input from the medical advisor, the Board concluded that the characterization of service was appropriate. They specifically found that the level of anabolic steroids detected in the applicant's system was indicative of needle injection.

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 shall remain "Misconduct (Drug Abuse)," and reentry code shall remain "2B". The Air Force DRB (AFDRB) results were approved by the presiding officer on 20 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)