

**AIR FORCE DISCHARGE REVIEW BOARD DECISIONAL DOCUMENT**

**SUMMARY:**

The applicant was discharged on 13 May 2021 in accordance with Air Force Instruction 36-3208, *Administrative Separation of Airmen*, with a General discharge for Misconduct (Minor Infractions). The applicant appealed for an upgrade of their discharge characterization, a change to the discharge narrative reason, and a change to the reentry code.

The applicant appeared and testified before the Discharge Review Board (DRB), without counsel, via video teleconference using Zoom on 23 January 2024. Witnesses were present to testify on the applicant's behalf.

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, multiple Letters of Reprimand, multiple Letters of Counseling, and a Letter of Admonishment. Their misconduct included: Derelictions of duty (2x); Failure to go (2x); The use of an unapproved audiovisual equipment on the flight line; Insubordinate attitude and disrespect towards both military and civilian leadership; Failure to obey orders or regulations.

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 recognizes their insufficient readiness for the challenges within the Air Force and understands the commanders' decision to separate them due to professional shortcomings. Nevertheless, they assert that the discharge was inequitable, contending that a single mistake after 16 months of model conduct does not merit a "general" discharge, typically reserved for more severe offenses. The applicant emphasizes that their volunteer contributions both before and after their service should be factored in when considering their request for an upgrade to an honorable discharge.

The DRB found that, despite ample opportunities provided by the chain of command after the initial offense, the applicant's persistent negative behavior outweighed their positive contributions, including volunteerism as evidenced by awards and letters of appreciation. The seriousness of the applicant's willful misconduct was a determining factor.

Additionally, the Board considered the factors laid out in the attachment to the Under Secretary of Defense memorandum, *Guidance to Military Discharge Review Boards and Boards for Correction of Military/Naval Records Regarding Equity, Injustice, or Clemency Determinations*, dated 25 June 2018, known as the

“Wilkie Memo.” The Board considered the factors listed in paragraphs (6)(a)-(6)(l) and (7)(a)-(7)(r) of this memorandum. The DRB acknowledges the applicant's success post-Air Force departure but determined that the length of time since the misconduct (7)(f) was insufficient to warrant an upgrade on the basis of equity utilizing these factors.

**FINDING:** The DRB voted unanimously to *deny* the applicant’s request to upgrade their discharge characterization, to change the discharge narrative reason, however the DRB voted 2 to 1 to *deny* the change the reentry code.

Should the applicant wish to appeal this decision, the applicant must seek relief before the Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records (AFBCMR) in accordance with DAFI 36-2603, *Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records*.

**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 (Minor Infractions),” and the reentry code shall remain to “2B.” The Air Force DRB (AFDRB) results were approved by the Presiding Officer on 25 January 2024. 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://afrbaportal.azurewebsites.us>

Attachment:  
Examiner's Brief (Applicant Only)