

**SUMMARY:** The Applicant was discharged on March 13, 2023 in accordance with Air Force Instruction 36-3208, *Administrative Separation of Airmen*, with an Under Honorable Conditions (General) Service Characterization for Misconduct (Minor Infractions). The Applicant requested an upgrade of their Service Characterization.

The Applicant requested the Board be completed based on a Record Review. The Board was conducted on December 18, 2025. The Applicant was not represented by counsel.

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, including evidence submitted by the Applicant. The Board thoroughly reviewed 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 DRB provided a notice to inform the service member of resources available to help answer their questions about the application process and/or to help them supplement their application, to include information on the types of evidence that can be submitted to support a claim; information regarding potential eligibility for mental health treatment and evaluation services offered by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA); general information regarding Veterans Service Organizations that may assist with DRB applications, and their right to retain counsel; a link to a database of legal services organizations that serve members of the military, veterans, and their families; the weblink to the VA's Directory of Veteran's Service Organizations; and information regarding reasonable accommodation requests from the DRB in the application and adjudication process.

The Applicant's record of service included the following documented misconduct leading up to their discharge:

- Article 15 for failure to go
- Letter of Reprimand for failure to obey a direct order
- Letter of Reprimand for failure to go
- Letter of Counseling for failure to go
- Letter of Counseling for failure to go

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 stated after the COVID vaccine they begin to experience a surge of health challenges and was diagnosed with Tachycardia, Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome (P.O.T.S), ADHD, and severe depression. They stated these issues made it hard for them to function effectively in their workplace, consequently leading to their discharge.

The DRB determined was inequitable. While a thorough review of the record confirmed the separation was based on a pattern of misconduct—including two Letters of Counseling, two Letters of Reprimand, and Non-

Judicial Punishment for failing to report to work on time and disobeying instructions—the Board found that significant mitigating factors were not adequately considered. The Board noted the Applicant was experiencing a combination of major life stressors that directly contributed to their misconduct, including medical issues complicating their medication, the recent loss of a parent, an ADHD diagnosis, and their relative youthfulness. Weighing these extenuating circumstances, the Board concluded that the misconduct was not indicative of the applicant's overall potential for honorable service. Therefore, the Board approved the applicant's request to upgrade their Service Characterization.

**LIBERAL CONSIDERATION:** Due to the Applicant's contentions or evidence of a mental health diagnosis and/or experiences of sexual assault or sexual harassment and/or records documenting that one or more symptoms of mental health conditions and/or experiences of sexual assault or sexual harassment existed/occurred during military service found in the Applicant's record, the Board considered the case based on the liberal consideration (LC) standards required by guidance from the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness and 10 USC §1553. The Board included a member who is a physician, clinical psychologist, psychiatrist or social worker with training on mental health issues connected with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or traumatic brain injury (TBI) or other trauma. Specifically, the Board reviewed the four questions the Under Secretary of Defense provided that Boards should consider when weighing evidence in requests for modification of discharges due in whole or in part to mental health conditions, including PTSD: TBI, sexual assault, and sexual harassment. The Board considered the following:

1. Did the veteran have a condition or experience that may excuse or mitigate the discharge?

*The Applicant checked the box for "PTSD" on the application. The Applicant contended "I believe under the circumstances concerning the medical issues I incurred during my enlistment, I should have received a medical or honorable discharge. The health conditions I developed while in the service significantly impacted my ability to perform my duties and maintain standards under UCMJ. I was experiencing dizziness, low blood pressure, extreme fatigue, and was diagnosed with tachycardia, Postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome (POTS), ADHD, and severe depression. All the aforementioned matters as well as my work environment were consequential in the events leading to my discharge."*

2. Did that condition exist/experience occur during military service?

*A review of the Applicant's in service records revealed the Applicant endorsed symptoms of PTSD. There is no evidence the Applicant exhibited or endorsed any clinically significant features of PTSD, or any other mental health condition, during their time in service. There is no evidence the Applicant received the diagnosis of PTSD during their time in service. A review of the Applicant's in-service records revealed the Applicant denied mental health symptoms when asked directly on their post-deployment screeners and by mental health providers and substance use treatment providers during their time in service.*

3. Does that condition, or experience actually excuse or mitigate the discharge?

*A review of the Applicant's DD214 revealed the Applicant was discharged with a General character of service due to misconduct (minor infractions) with one year, seven months eleven days time in service. A review of the Applicant's discharge package revealed the Applicant received two Letters of Counseling (LOC), two Letters of Reprimand (LOR) and one nonjudicial punishment (NJP) during their brief time in service. The Applicant's request for a medical discharge is outside the scope of the discharge review board. Also, medical conditions with no nexus to an underlying mental health condition are excluded from the intent of liberal consideration and will not be addressed under the intent of liberal consideration.*

*The Applicant's contentions and testimony revealed that the Applicant endorsed difficulty adjusting to the military lifestyle and was bored in the training environment due to not feeling challenged by the training curriculum, as documented by treating providers in the Applicant's medical and mental health records. The Applicant made it known to providers that they believed their symptoms would be alleviated by being discharged from the military. There is evidence the Applicant exhibited, endorsed, and met criteria for the*

*diagnosis of ADHD combined type during this time in service. The Applicant reported their ADHD symptoms existed prior to service (EPTS) causing the same functional impairments; ADHD is an unsuiting condition, non-compensable condition that would result in administrative separation if the condition impairs a member's ability to perform military duties, and thus may have explained some of the misconduct that led to the Applicant's discharge, but does not excuse the Applicant's discharge. It is also unlikely that a mental health condition would explain all of the Applicant's misconduct; it is unlikely a mental health condition caused or contributed to the Applicant's failure to move out of the dorms or complete the move out inspection. Further, the Applicant made their mental health condition known to their command and leadership during their time in service and during their discharge processing. The Applicant responded to their Article 15 and stated that their "thoughts are foggy and I do not have a clear state of mind" when they wake up.*

4. Does that condition, or experience outweigh the discharge?

*Based on a review of the available evidence and records, the Applicant's mental health condition was known and considered by the discharge authorities at the time of the Applicant's discharge and did not outweigh their discharge.*

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.

**FINDING AND 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 inequitable. The DRB voted two to one to **approve** the Applicant's request. Therefore, the awarded Service Characterization shall change to "Honorable," the Narrative Reason for separation shall remain Misconduct (Minor Infractions), and the Reentry Code shall remain 2B. The DRB results were approved by the Presiding Officer on January 20, 2026.

Should the Applicant wish to appeal this decision, they 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.

Instructions on how to appeal an AFDRB decision can be found at <https://afrbportal.azurewebsites.us>

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, MD 20762-6435

Attachment:  
Examiner's Brief (Applicant Only)