

**AIR FORCE DISCHARGE REVIEW BOARD DECISIONAL DOCUMENT**

**SUMMARY:**

The applicant was discharged on 19 October 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 requested the Board be completed based on a records only review. The Board was conducted on 07 March 2024. 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, 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 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 contended the discharge characterization is inequitable due to his overall service prior to discharge and rehabilitation after discharge. The applicant recites multiple accomplishments while in the Air Force, both in his core Air Force mission and through volunteer work. The applicant also recites his post-discharge education, volunteer work, and career accomplishments. The applicant believes that his conduct and contributions prior to his discharge, both in the community and on the installation, warrant an upgrade to his discharge characterization.

The DRB determined to deny the applicant's request because the positive aspects of his in- and post-service accomplishments did not outweigh his misconduct.

A General (Under Honorable Conditions) characterization is appropriate when "when the positive aspects of the enlisted Service member's conduct or performance of duty outweigh negative aspects of the enlisted Service member's conduct or performance of duty as documented in their service record." DoDI 1332.14 at page 30 (paragraph 3(b)(2)(b)). In contrast, an Honorable characterization is appropriate "when the quality of the enlisted Service member's service generally has met the standards of acceptable conduct and performance of duty for military personnel, or is otherwise so meritorious that any other characterization would be clearly inappropriate." Id.

The DRB carefully reviewed the applicant's service records. Although the applicant received positive performance evaluations, the DRB determined that the positive aspects of the Applicant's service were not "so meritorious that any other characterization would be clearly inappropriate" in light of the drug abuse. Additionally, the discharge received was consistent with standards of discipline in the Air Force.

**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 Presiding Officer on 20 March 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)