

**AIR FORCE DISCHARGE REVIEW BOARD DECISIONAL DOCUMENT**

**SUMMARY:**

The applicant was discharged on 09 May 2022 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 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 multiple Letters of Reprimand. His misconduct included: disrespecting and failing to comply with orders of a Non-Commissioned Officer, failure to maintain Air Force grooming standards, failure to report to his Commander and First Sergeant, and failure to attend a mental health appointment.

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 was inequitable or improper because his discharge was related to his refusal to receive a COVID-19 vaccination despite his request for a religious exemption. The applicant believes he served honorably and did not have the chance of a long career to correct any of his minor mistakes made as an airman trying to navigate the military and adulthood. He adds that life has been hard in terms of employment and getting back to school due to the less than honorable discharge.

The DRB determined that the applicant's claim that he was discharged due to vaccine noncompliance was false. The DRB found no indication that the applicant's chain of command discharged him for such noncompliance. Rather, the applicant was discharged for receiving four LORs in a six-month period. The applicant did not dispute the propriety or equity of being discharged for this documented misconduct. Further, the DRB determined that through the administrative actions taken by the chain of command in this case, the applicant had ample opportunities to change his negative behavior but did not. As a result, the DRB determined that the applicant's discharge was proper and equitable.

**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 (Minor Infractions)," 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://afrbportal.azurewebsites.us>

Attachment:  
Examiner's Brief (Applicant Only)