

AIR FORCE DISCHARGE REVIEW BOARD DECISIONAL DOCUMENT

SUMMARY: The applicant was discharged on 07 January 2022 in accordance with Air Force Instruction 36-3208, Administrative Separation of Airmen, with a General Discharge for Alcohol Rehabilitation Failure. The applicant appealed for an upgrade of their discharge characterization.

The applicant requested the Board be completed based on a records only review. The Board was conducted on 14 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, and a Letter of Counseling. His misconduct included: Apprehended by security forces for impaired driving; Failed to go at the time prescribed to his appointed place of duty, FTAC; Failed to go at the time prescribed to his appointed place of duty, work center; Failed to go at the time prescribed to his appointed place of duty, work center; Failed to successfully complete ADAPT program due to his inability to abstain from drinking alcohol during treatment.

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 of his character base on inequity, impropriety and clemency. He indicated his unwavering commitment, exemplary leadership, and dedication to personal growth warrant an upgrade. The applicant admitted his reason for discharge was due to alcohol rehabilitation failure and accepted full responsibility but maintained that the discharge was not fair. He contested that he should have passed the program as he abstained from alcohol entirely and was dedicated to treatment. The applicant wishes to use the G.I. Bill education benefit.

The DRB reviewed the applicant's entire service record and found no evidence of impropriety or inequity to warrant an upgrade of the discharge. The Board took note of the applicant's claim of positive conduct during service but determined that the seriousness of his misconduct offset the positive aspects. Furthermore, the applicant indicated positive conduct during the ADAPT program and felt he should have passed; however, the DRB found evidence to the contrary. During treatment, ADAPT counselors noted he demonstrated a pattern of poor judgement, reliability, and a lack of integrity regarding his drinking behavior. The DRB concluded that the discharge received was appropriate.

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 and found no evidence of inequity or impropriety.

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 “Alcohol Rehabilitation Failure,” and the reentry code shall remain “2B.” The Air Force DRB (AFDRB) results were approved by the Presiding Officer on 19 Mar 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)