

**AIR FORCE DISCHARGE REVIEW BOARD DECISIONAL DOCUMENT**

**SUMMARY:**

The Applicant was discharged on 5 July 2017 by 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.

The Applicant requested that the Board be completed based on a record-only review. The Board was conducted on 25 April 2024. Counsel did not represent the Applicant.

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 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 Applicant's record of service included an Article 15. Their misconduct included failure to go to the appointed place of duty.

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 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 to their characterization. They acknowledged the circumstances that had led to their discharge and stated that they have since used their time to grow and mature. They emphasized that the upgrade would enable their goal to attend law school.

The DRB reviewed the Applicant's entire service record and found no evidence provided by the Applicant or evidence found in their service record that shows any evidence of impropriety or inequity to warrant an upgrade of the discharge. The Board understood the Applicant's present service characterization renders them ineligible for Department of Veteran Affairs education benefits. However, this is not a matter of inequity or impropriety which would warrant an upgrade.

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 their 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). Per 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 thoroughly reviewing the available evidence, including the Applicant's issues, a service summary, service/medical record entries, and the 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 Presiding Officer approved the Air Force DRB (AFDRB) results on 13 May 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

Applicants can find instructions on how to appeal an AFDRB decision at <https://afrbportal.azurewebsites.us>.

Attachment:  
Examiner's Brief (Applicant Only)