

AIR FORCE DISCHARGE REVIEW BOARD DECISIONAL DOCUMENT

SUMMARY:

The applicant was discharged on 25 January 2023 in accordance with Air Force Instruction 36-3208, Administrative Separation of Airmen, with an Entry Level Separation for Failed Medical/Physical Procurement Standards. The applicant appealed for an upgrade of their discharge characterization, and a change to the discharge narrative reason.

The applicant requested the Board be completed based on a records only review. The Board was conducted on 13 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 reenry 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 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 claims to have suffered "left upper extremity numbness and pain left lower extremity numbness and pain" as a result of a COVID vaccination during Basic Military Training. He states that his immune system attacked itself following immunization. He asserts that he has a VA claim for this injury.

The DRB determined that the applicant did not show an impropriety or inequity in his discharge. The Air Force discharged the applicant with an entry level separation due to erroneous enlistment following a diagnosis of arm and leg weakness. Although the DRB recognizes that vaccine injuries can occur, the applicant presents no evidence from a medical provider linking his diagnosis to any vaccine he received during Basic Military Training. Further, following consultation with a medical provider, the DRB determined that a vaccine injury cannot be inferred from existing records of the applicant's medical treatment while in the Air Force. As a result, the applicant has not provided sufficient evidence to convince the Board that his discharge was somehow the result of inequity or impropriety on the part of the Air Force.

FINDING: The DRB voted unanimously to *deny* the applicant's request to upgrade his discharge characterization or change the discharge narrative reason.

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 "Entry Level Separation," the narrative reason for separation shall remain "Failed Medical/Physical Procurement Standards," and the reentry code shall remain "4C." The Air Force DRB (AFDRB) results were approved by the Presiding Officer on 13 Apr 24. 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)