

AIR FORCE DISCHARGE REVIEW BOARD DECISIONAL DOCUMENT

SUMMARY: The Applicant was discharged on 01 June 2023 in accordance with, Department of the Air Force Instruction 36-3211, *Military Separations*, with a Discharge Characterization of Entry Level Separation and a Narrative Reason for Failed Medical/Physical Procurement Standards, and a Reentry Code of 2B. The Applicant appealed for an upgrade of their Discharge Characterization, a change to their discharge Narrative Reason for Separation, and a change to their Reentry Code.

The Applicant requested the Board conduct an initial record review of their discharge. The Board convened on 25 April 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 (LOR). Their misconduct included: Breaking technical training phase regulation and possessing unauthorized items in the dormitory.

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 contested their medical disqualification from the military. According to their account, they had no issues passing the screening process to join the military. However, after being hospitalized for two days, the medical team discovered a bowel blockage, which was deemed disqualifying and resulted in their separation. While the Applicant did acknowledge undergoing surgery in 2021, which may have contributed to their condition. They believed that this issue was mainly caused by the military's self-contained operational rations also known as Meals Ready to Eat (MREs), as their fellow Airmen also experienced similar bowel symptoms. The Applicant maintained that they were still capable of serving and requested an upgrade to reenter service.

The DRB conducted a thorough review and found no evidence provided by the Applicant or within the available records to support the request for an upgrade. In the record review, it was found that during training, the Applicant experienced abdominal pain that worsened progressively. After hospitalization, the medical team determined that the Applicant did not meet retention standards based on Department of Defense Instruction 6130.03- Volume 1, Chapter 6.12, *Medical Standards for Military Service: Appointment, Enlistment, or Induction*, regarding Abdominal Organs and Gastrointestinal Systems. The medical team recommended that the Applicant be separated due to the risk of recurrence of the small bowel obstruction, as MREs can be a primary source during contingency and deployments. The DRB's medical advisor agreed with the San Antonio medical team, stating there is a high probability of reoccurring

blockage, and the Applicant has already demonstrated this inability, such that his two-day hospitalization was "necessitated." Unfortunately the Applicant also failed to provide any substantial medical opinions or documentation showing that they would no longer suffer from the same condition. Ultimately, the Board concluded that the discharge received by the Applicant 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 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). 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 21 April 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)