

AIR FORCE DISCHARGE REVIEW BOARD DECISIONAL DOCUMENT

SUMMARY: The Applicant was discharged on 27 June 2023 in accordance with Air Force Instruction 36-3211, *Military Separations*, with a Discharge Characterization of Entry Level Separation with a Narrative Reason of Failed Medical/Physical Procurement Standard and a Reentry Code of 4C. The Applicant appealed for 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 Discharge 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 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 in their Reentry Code to enable them to serve in the military. They had been discharged originally due to a heart condition following an Air Force flight physical. Since their discharge, they stated they underwent intervention surgery and catheter ablation, which corrected the heart condition and restored their sinus rhythm to normal. They provided an electrocardiogram and additional medical records as evidence supporting their eligibility to return to military service.

The DRB acknowledged the Applicant makes no contentions of impropriety or inequity in their discharge but is requesting a chance to return to the military due to a change in their health. After a review of the supporting evidence, the Board was convinced that it was appropriate to upgrade the Applicant's reentry code to the extent necessary for them to be considered for accession. However, their success in enlisting is contingent upon the needs of the service and their fulfillment of other qualifications based on the Military Entrance Processing Station's guidance and regulations.

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 *approve* a change to the reentry code. However, the DRB also voted unanimously to *deny* the Applicant's upgrade to their Discharge Characterization and 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 inequitable. Therefore, the awarded Discharge 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 change to "3K." The DRB Presiding Officer approved the results on 19 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

Instructions on how to appeal an AFDRB decision can be found at <https://afrbaportal.azurewebsites.us>.

Attachment:

Examiner's Brief (Applicant Only)