

SUMMARY: The Applicant was discharged on 19 March 2023 per Air Force Instruction 36-3209, *Separation and Retirement Procedures for Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve Members*, with an Entry Level Separation for Physical Disqualification. 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 03 May 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 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 to their Character of Service and Narrative Reason. Applicant stated they served with the Army for 8 years, then joined the Air Force. Applicant stated they were injured during combative drills and hurt pretty bad. The Applicant contends the injury cost the Applicant time off from drill and their civilian job. The Applicant stated that due to the extent of injuries, involvement with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and lasting effects both mentally and physically, the VA rated the Applicant 100% Permanent and Total (P&T) disability rating. The Applicant stated they were advised by their chain of command that they were getting Med-Boarded with a Medical Discharge, not a General Discharge, "which prevents me from using some benefits". Member submitted their VA Rating as part of their evidence.

The DRB determined the discharge was proper and equitable. The DRB does not have the authority to change a discharge to "Medical" per the Applicant's request. However, the DRB advises that if the Applicant would like a review of their physical disqualification to be considered, the Applicant would need to apply to the Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records (AFBCMR). Furthermore, the DRB advises that if the Applicant would like Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) as a mental health condition to be considered, the Applicant would need to apply to the Army DRB as the condition was determined to be prior to Air Force service.

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 "Entry Level Separation," the narrative reason for separation shall remain "Physical Disqualification," and the reentry code shall remain "6P." The Air Force DRB (AFDRB) results were approved by the Presiding Officer on 1 July 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)