

AIR FORCE DISCHARGE REVIEW BOARD DECISIONAL DOCUMENT

SUMMARY:

The applicant was discharged on 4 August 2020 in accordance with Air Force Instruction 36-3208, Administrative Separation of Airmen, with an Entry Level Separation for Uncharacterized. The applicant appealed for an upgrade of their discharge characterization, a change to the discharge narrative reason, and a change to the reentry code.

The applicant requested the Board be completed based on a records only review. The Board was conducted on 24 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 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 stated their discharge was inequitable because they were discharged after contracting COVID-19 and the medical issues that arose after. Applicant states they were considered for a medical board, but their medical condition worsened so to get the "best help" as soon as possible, the applicant was discharged for medical reasons because waiting "up to 6 months" period for a medical board process could have been detrimental to their health. The applicant requested a "Medical" discharge and upgrade to their character of service to "Honorable" or "General Under Honorable Conditions" characterization. Member also requests their separation code and narrative reason for separation. Applicant provided a memo from the VA reflecting 100% service-connected evaluation, total and permanently disabled.

The DRB determined the discharge was proper and equitable. The applicant was discharged for a defective enlistment, being found to have not met minimum medical standards to enlist and should not have been allowed to join the Air Force because applicant had type 1 diabetes mellitus (DM). The applicant requested (365 day) uncharacterized Entry Level Separation be changed to "Honorable" or "General". However, this would violate current Air Force policy IAW DAFI 36-3211, which states Airmen are in entry level status during the first 365 days of continuous active military service and if a separation action is initiated during this time, they will receive an entry level separation without service characterization. Therefore, the applicant's request to "upgrade" to "Honorable" or "General" could not be approved. The Board also determined that changing a discharge to medical is outside the scope of the DRB. The applicant can pursue a request for a medical discharge to the Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records (AFBCMR).

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 the 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 “Uncharacterized,” and the reentry code shall remain “4C”. The Air Force DRB (AFDRB) results were approved by the Presiding Officer on 29 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)