

SUMMARY: The Applicant was discharged on 17 February 2022 in accordance with Air Force Instruction 36-3208, *Administrative Separation of Airmen*, with an Uncharacterized discharge for “Failed Medical/Physical Procurement Standards”. The Applicant appealed for an upgrade of their reentry code.

The Applicant requested the Board be completed based on a records only review. The Board was conducted on 30 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 stated they believe they were misdiagnosed with a heart condition. The Applicant contended there is no proof of the condition based upon subsequent post-service cardiologist visits. The Applicant contended those visits resulted in more thorough testing and examination than while the Applicant was serving in the Air Force.

The Applicant provided the following documents in support of their claim:
2 March 2022 to 8 June 2022 - *Supporting Medical Documents*

The DRB determined that the Applicant initially received a medical accession waiver for bigeminal Premature Ventricular Complex (PVCs) at the Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS). However, during the Applicant’s seventh week of Basic Military Training (BMT), they were disqualified due to Cardiomyopathy and PVC. Subsequently, the Applicant’s request for an Entry Level Separation (ELS) medical waiver was denied, with the reasoning that the condition likely existed prior to service. The denied waiver specified that the Applicant could reapply for USAF training or duties after treatment and resolution of the condition, if desired. As a result, the Applicant was discharged with an Entry Level Separation in accordance with AFI 36-3208, *Administrative Separation of Airmen*, Chapter 5, Section 5C, Defective Enlistment, Paragraph 5.14 (Erroneous Enlistment) and Paragraph 5.15 (Fraudulent Enlistment). Following advisory from a medical subject matter expert and a review of the Applicant’s post-service Supporting Medical Documents, the DRB concluded that the Applicant may be capable of serving and cleared to apply for reentry into the Air Force through appropriate channels and appropriate waiver processes.

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 evidence of inequity.

Evidence in support of relief may come from sources other than a veteran’s service record. The Applicant provided medical evidence, specifically a cardiology office note dated 8 June 2022, wherein the service member was cleared for military duty by a civilian cardiologist.

A veteran’s or Service member’s sworn testimony alone, oral or written, may establish the existence of a fact supportive of relief. The Applicant stated they believe they were misdiagnosed with a heart condition. The Applicant contended there is no proof of the condition based on subsequent cardiologist visits which the Applicant provided documentary evidence of subsequent medical visits.

Relief is generally more appropriate for non-violent offenses than for violent offenses. The Applicant’s record did not include any misconduct and there were no violent offenses committed by the member.

FINDING: The DRB voted unanimously to *approve* the Applicant’s request to upgrade their 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 inequitable. Therefore, the awarded characterization of service shall remain “Uncharacterized,” the narrative reason for separation shall remain “Failed Medical/Physical Procurement Standards,” and the reentry code shall Change to “3K.” The DRB results were approved by the Presiding Officer on 29 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://afrbportal.azurewebsites.us>

Attachment:
Examiner's Brief (Applicant Only)