

SUMMARY: The Applicant was discharged on 08 March 2011 in accordance with Air Force Instruction 36-3208, *Administrative Separation of Airmen*, with an Entry Level Separation Discharge for Failed Medical/Physical Procurement Standards. 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 12 September 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 contends after failing a PT test at Basic Military Training due to a knee injury, they were sent home even though they could still complete all components of the test. Their command asserted that the Applicant had not reported a prior knee surgery, which the Applicant disputes was disclosed during their entrance exam. Ultimately, the Applicant was discharged with a torn ACL. Shortly after their discharge, they promptly sought surgery from an orthopedic doctor to address the issue. The Applicant believes the uncharacterized entry-level separation did not accurately reflect their situation nor adequately considered.

The DRB found no grounds to approve the requested upgrades to the Applicant's discharge characterization, narrative reason, or reentry code. The uncharacterized entry-level separation aligns with Air Force policy for members discharged within 180 days of service. The Applicant claims their discharge following a PT failure was not properly reviewed, citing a knee injury and surgery as mitigating factors. However, the evidence, including medical records and the command's report, shows the Applicant did not fully disclose their pre-existing chronic knee instability during enlistment. This, along with the subsequent torn ACL, confirms the Applicant did not meet the medical standards required for service, justifying the discharge under 'Failed Medical/Physical Procurement Standards.' As per AFI 36-3208, the entry-level separation is correct, and upgrading to an honorable discharge would violate policy. Therefore, the Board denies the requested changes.

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 4 October 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)