

**SUMMARY:** The Applicant was discharged on 27 January 2020 in accordance with Air Force Instruction 36-3208, *Administrative Separation of Airmen*, with a Under Honorable Conditions - (General) discharge for Misconduct (Minor Infractions). The Applicant appealed for an upgrade of their discharge characterization.

The Applicant requested the Board be completed based on a records only review. The Board was conducted on 24 October 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 Applicant's record of service included the following documented misconduct leading up to their discharge:

- Letter of Reprimand for failure to refrain from possessing alcohol while under the legal drinking age.
- Article 15 for failure to refrain from possessing alcohol while under the legal drinking age.

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 that Since leaving the Air Force, the Applicant underwent significant personal growth and felt ready to positively contribute to society. They acknowledged the valuable experiences gained during their service but faced challenges, including depression. The Applicant attributed their minor misconduct to the emotional strain of being away from family and adjusting to military life.

Despite these struggles, they remained resilient, enrolled in pilot school to become a commercial pilot, and pursued an accounting degree. The Applicant sought an upgrade to an honorable discharge to reflect their growth and enable further opportunities to serve their country.

The DRB denied the Applicant's request for an upgrade to an honorable discharge primarily due to the nature of the in-service misconduct, which involved repeated underage alcohol possession, and the absence of supporting documentation for their post-service accomplishments. While the Applicant cited personal growth, resilience, and a commitment to societal contribution since leaving the Air Force, they did not provide evidence to substantiate these claims, such as documents verifying their enrollment in pilot school or pursuit of an accounting degree.

Additionally, the Applicant did not argue any inequity or procedural error in the original discharge, instead appealing for leniency based on personal development. The Board noted that while it does consider factors like candor, atonement, and positive post-service conduct, each case is reviewed individually. Without

corroborating evidence to indicate that the Applicant's in-service misconduct was an isolated incident and not indicative of their character, the Board found the original General discharge for "Misconduct (Minor Infractions)" to be appropriate.

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.

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 "Under Honorable Conditions - (General)," the narrative reason for separation shall remain "Misconduct (Minor Infractions)," and the reentry code shall remain "2B." The DRB results were approved by the Presiding Officer on 25 November 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, 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)

