

**SUMMARY:** The Applicant was discharged on 25 November 2009 in accordance with Air Force Instruction 36-3208, *Administrative Separation of Airmen*, with an Uncharacterized discharge for Fraudulent Entry into Military Service. The Applicant appealed for an upgrade of their discharge characterization, a change to the discharge narrative reason, and a change to the separation code.

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 did not include any additional documented misconduct leading up to their discharge.

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 is requesting an upgrade to their characterization, narrative reason, and separation code. They stated when they were approximately 14 years old, their feet would turn a variation of red and purple at random. However, no doctor could provide an answer as to what was the cause. The Applicant went off to enlist in the Air Force and within a week they began to experience pain in their legs but refused to tell anyone. However, one day while showering their legs had changed to a blackened purple color and their instructor saw it. They were ordered to report to medical in which they were told their medical records annotated them having Reynaud's disease. They state they were unaware of the diagnosis and did not have any knowledge of what Reynaud disease was. They state they did not get to speak to anyone regarding the specifics of their discharge and could only speculate it was due to something within their medical records. In addition, they state they were not given the chance to sign their DD214, although they were available. The Applicant was discharged for having the Reynaud's which is a disqualifier from serving in the military. After discharge the Applicant continued to have pain. Five years later, the Applicant was sent to Mayo Clinic in Scottsdale Arizona and finally received an official diagnosis of Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome (POTS). POTS is typically dormant until triggered by an acute stressor. The Applicant believed the stress from BMT was the trigger initiating the discoloration of their legs. Due to these occurrences, they are seeking an upgrade.

The Discharge Review Board (DRB) found that there was impropriety in the Applicant's discharge from the Air Force. After conducting a thorough review of the Applicant's records, and with the assistance of the Medical Advisor, it was determined that the Applicant did not receive a diagnosis of Raynaud's disease, and

the symptoms experienced at the age of 14 were not consistent with the typical presentation of Raynaud's phenomenon. As a result of this discovery, the DRB granted the Applicant's request to upgrade their narrative reason for discharge. However, the Applicant also requested that their uncharacterized Entry Level Separation be upgraded to an Honorable discharge. Unfortunately, this request could not be approved due to the policy as outlined in Air Force Instruction (AFI) 36-3208, *Administrative Separation of Airmen*. According to this policy, Airmen are considered to be in entry-level status during the first 180 days of continuous active military service. If a separation action is initiated during this time, the Airman will receive an entry-level separation without a service characterization. Since the Applicant's separation occurred during this time period, they are not eligible for a service characterization, and therefore, the request to upgrade to an Honorable discharge could not be granted.

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 impropriety.

**FINDING:** The DRB voted unanimously to *approve* the Applicant's request to upgrade their change the discharge narrative reason.

**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 improper. Therefore, the awarded characterization of service shall remain "Uncharacterized," the narrative reason for separation shall change to "Secretarial Authority," and the reentry code shall remain "2C." The DRB results were approved by the Presiding Officer on 28 November 2024. If desired, the Applicant can request a list of the Board members and their votes by writing to:

Air Force Discharge Review Board  
3351 Celmers Lane  
Joint Base Andrews, MD 20762-6435

Instructions on how to appeal an AFDRB decision can be found at  
<https://afrbaportal.azurewebsites.us>

Attachment:  
Examiner's Brief (Applicant Only)