

SUMMARY: The Applicant was discharged on 30 September 2022 in accordance with Air Force Instruction 36-3209, Separation and Retirement Procedures for Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve Members, with an Entry Level Separation for Failure to adapt to the military environment. The Applicant appealed for an upgrade to change the reentry code.

The Applicant requested the Board be completed based on a records only review. The Board was conducted on 03 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 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 seeking the opportunity to re-enter the military; however, their current re-entry code is a limiting factor. Their leadership previously stated that they should not encounter any issues rejoining the military, but this statement was inaccurate. Therefore, the Applicant is requesting an upgrade to their re-entry code in order to fulfill their desire to serve in the military.

The DRB determined the Applicant has provided no evidence in support of the claim. While the Applicant contends that the former commander stated the Applicant should have no trouble enlisting with the re-entry code, this is not sufficient to conclude that the code was erroneously issued in conjunction with the discharge. There is no basis to make any change to this record on the grounds of equity or impropriety. Upon review of the Applicant's service record, other than the special orders and NGB Form 22 reflecting basis for the discharge, narrative reason for the discharge, and reentry (RE) code, the Board was not able to find the discharge package underlying the decision to discharge the applicant. However, while a copy of the discharge package is not included in the applicant's records, the presumption of regularity dictates that absent evidence to the contrary, it should be presumed that the discharge action was appropriate to the circumstances and carried out in accordance with the prescribing directives. Since the Board relies on the presumption of regularity, it concluded the evidence provided by the applicant was not sufficient to conclude that any relief is warranted. Should the applicant be able to provide copies of any other documentation related to the discharge, this new evidence could form the basis of a request by the applicant to seek reconsideration of this decision.

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 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, and service/medical record entries, the Board found the evidence presented by the applicant was not sufficient to conclude there was an inequity or impropriety in the discharge. Therefore, the awarded characterization of service shall remain “Uncharacterized,” the narrative reason for separation shall remain “Entry Level Separation,” and the reentry code shall remain “6H.” The Air Force DRB (AFDRB) results were approved by the Presiding Officer on 29 Jan 25. 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)