

**SUMMARY:** The Applicant was discharged on 14 May 2009 in accordance with *Air Force Instruction 36-3208, Administrative Separation of Airmen*, with an Under Honorable Conditions – General for Misconduct. The Applicant appealed for an upgrade of their discharge characterization, separation code, 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 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 Applicant's record of service included an Article 15, a vacation of suspended non-judicial punishment, and a Letter of Counseling. The misconduct included, failure to attend an appointment, failure to attend appointment at the squadron commander's office, sleeping during an exercise, and failure to provide a family care plan to their unit.

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 clemency for upgrading the character of service, re-entry code to 3K, and/or separation code on the merits of post service achievements and character so that they are afforded the opportunity to utilize their professional experience and talents in service to the Air Force Guard/Reserve.

The Discharge Review Board (DRB) determined that a review of the Applicant's record revealed a pattern of misconduct. In response to the vacation action, the Applicant took full responsibility for their actions. However, based on the length of time since discharge, successful post-service conduct, and the strong support reflected in the recommendation letters, the Board found sufficient reason to upgrade the discharge characterization, separation code, and reentry code on the grounds of clemency. It is consistent with military custom and practice to honor sacrifices and achievements, to punish only to the extent necessary, to rehabilitate to the greatest extent possible, and to favor second chances when individuals have paid for their misdeeds. Relief should not be reserved solely for those with exceptional aptitude; rather, character and rehabilitation should weigh more heavily than achievement alone. An applicant need not, for example, attain high academic or professional achievement in order to demonstrate sufficient rehabilitation to support relief. An honorable discharge characterization does not require flawless military service. Many veterans are separated with an honorable characterization despite having committed relatively minor or infrequent misconduct.

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

**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; however; the Board found the evidence presented by the applicant of his significant post-service accomplishments warranted approval of his request based on clemency. Therefore, the awarded characterization of service shall Change to "Honorable," the narrative reason for separation shall Change to "Secretarial Authority," and the reentry code shall Change to "3K." The Air Force DRB (AFDRB) results were approved by the Presiding Officer on DATE. 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)