

**SUMMARY:** The Applicant was discharged on 11 October 2018 in accordance with Air Force Instruction 36-3208, *Administrative Separation of Airmen*, with an Honorable discharge for Condition, Not a Disability. The Applicant appealed for a change to the discharge narrative reason.

The Applicant requested the Board be completed based on a records only review. The Board was conducted on 14 November 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 DRB provided a notice to inform the service member of resources available to help answer their questions about the application process and/or to help them supplement their application, to include information on the types of evidence that can be submitted to support a claim; information regarding potential eligibility for mental health treatment and evaluation services offered by the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA); general information regarding Veterans Service Organizations that may assist with DRB applications, and their right to retain counsel; a link to a database of legal services organizations that serve members of the military, veterans, and their families; the weblink to the VA's Directory of Veteran's Service Organizations; and information regarding reasonable accommodation requests from the DRB in the application and adjudication process.

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 that their discharge was inequitable or improper due to a misdiagnosis of Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD) resulting from the side effects of a medication prescribed for depression. The medication caused irritability, low mood, and thoughts of death, which led to a misdiagnosis of BPD. The Applicant states that since leaving the Air Force, they have stopped taking the medication and no longer have any mental health issues. They also saw a therapist who agreed that the BPD diagnosis was unwarranted and that they are fit for duty. The Applicant wishes to continue serving in the Air Force and has no disorders.

The DRB determined that the Applicant was discharged for a condition, not a disability, specifically Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD), as documented through consistent evaluations by multiple qualified in-service mental health providers over the course of a year. Although the Applicant submitted a letter from a post-service mental health provider disputing the BPD diagnosis, the provider acknowledged that the Applicant exhibited "certain traits that place them on the spectrum of Borderline Personality Disorder." The board concluded that the in-service evaluations, conducted under military conditions and during periods of

significant stress, carried greater weight than the post-service provider's opinion. The Applicant's claim that their behavior was influenced by medication side effects was uncorroborated during their service, and their assertion that they no longer have mental health issues does not negate the unsuiting condition's documented impact at the time. The board found no evidence of inequity or impropriety in the discharge and upheld the original characterization and narrative reason for separation.

**LIBERAL CONSIDERATION:** Due to the Applicant's contentions or evidence of a mental health diagnosis and/or experiences of sexual assault or sexual harassment and/or records documenting that one or more symptoms of mental health conditions and/or experiences of sexual assault or sexual harassment existed/occurred during military service found in the Applicant's record, the Board considered the case based on the liberal consideration (LC) standards required by guidance from the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness and 10 USC §1553. The Board included a member who is a physician, clinical psychologist, psychiatrist or social worker with training on mental health issues connected with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or traumatic brain injury (TBI) or other trauma. Specifically, the Board reviewed the four questions the Under Secretary of Defense provided that Boards should consider when weighing evidence in requests for modification of discharges due in whole or in part to mental health conditions, including PTSD; TBI; sexual assault, and sexual harassment. The Board considered the following:

1. Did the veteran have a condition or experience that may excuse or mitigate the discharge?

*The Applicant contended that they were on medication for depression following a difficult breakup. They claimed to have had a poor reaction to the medication, which made them more irritable and caused suicidal ideation, ultimately leading to what they believe was a misdiagnosis of Borderline Personality Disorder (BPD). After leaving the service, the Applicant met with a therapist and disputed their BPD diagnosis. They are requesting that their narrative reason for separation be changed to allow them to re-enlist in the Air Force.*

2. Did that condition exist/experience occur during military service?

*The Applicant had an extensive mental health history during their time in service. They initially sought mental health treatment for difficulties adjusting to their new duty station and were diagnosed with Adjustment Disorder with Depressed Mood. This condition resolved after they learned coping skills to manage their depressed mood and better adapt to military life and their environment. However, they were later escorted to the Mental Health Clinic (MHC) after experiencing suicidal ideation related to a recent breakup. The Applicant struggled to cope with the end of this relationship, experiencing recurrent suicidal ideation with plans, which led to two hospitalizations at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center (LRMC) and six weeks of inpatient treatment at the U-Center.*

*During their treatment, the Applicant was diagnosed with Adjustment Disorder with Depressed Mood, Suicidal Ideation, Major Depressive Disorder (MDD), Antisocial Personality Disorder (APD) Traits, and Unspecified Problem Related to the Social Environment. They were also diagnosed with BPD and Unspecified Personality Disorder by multiple in-service providers, including their Primary Mental Health Provider (PMHP), psychiatrist, and the evaluator conducting their Commander-Directed Evaluation (CDE) at Spangdahlem AB. These diagnoses were based on recurrent suicidal ideation, interpersonal conflicts, attention-seeking behaviors, fear of abandonment, impulsivity, manipulative behaviors, mood instability, chronic feelings of emptiness, and difficulty controlling anger. BPD was identified as their primary mental health condition contributing to their maladaptive behaviors.*

3. Does that condition, or experience actually excuse or mitigate the discharge?

*The Applicant's official discharge paperwork is unavailable or was not submitted for review. However, their DD Form 214 indicates they were discharged for the reason of "CONDITION, NOT A DISABILITY," reflecting an unsuiting condition. Service treatment records confirm they were recommended for discharge*

*due to an unsuiting mental health condition, specifically a personality disorder or BPD.*

*There is no evidence to support the Applicant's claim that they were misdiagnosed with BPD during service. While the Applicant submitted post-service evidence from a mental health provider who assessed that they did not meet the full criteria for BPD, this opinion does not outweigh the evaluations conducted by multiple in-service providers over a year of treatment, including thorough assessments and psychological testing. Additionally, the post-service provider noted that the Applicant displayed "certain traits that place them on the spectrum of Borderline Personality Disorder," suggesting these traits were still present, though less pronounced.*

*The differences in diagnosis likely stem from variations in the Applicant's clinical presentation. During service, the Applicant faced significant stressors, including a breakup, an overseas assignment, and challenges adjusting to military life, which exacerbated their personality traits. In contrast, there is no evidence of similar stressors post-service, leading to less pronounced symptoms. BPD traits tend to become more severe during periods of stress. The Applicant's personality disorder or BPD rendered them unsuitable for continued military service and was the basis for their discharge. However, this condition does not excuse or mitigate their discharge.*

4. Does that condition, or experience outweigh the discharge?

*Since the Applicant's unsuiting mental health condition does not excuse or mitigate their discharge, it also does not outweigh the original discharge. There is no evidence of inequity or impropriety in their BPD diagnosis or the subsequent discharge for this unsuiting condition from service.*

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 change the discharge narrative reason.

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 "Honorable," the narrative reason for separation shall remain "Condition, Not a Disability," and the reentry code shall remain "2C." The DRB results were approved by the Presiding Officer on 27 December 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 20762-6435

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

Attachment:  
Examiner's Brief (Applicant Only)

