

**SUMMARY:** The Applicant was discharged on 23 December 2021 in accordance with Air Force Instruction 36-3208, *Administrative Separation of Airmen*, with an Uncharacterized for Erroneous Entry. The Applicant appealed for a change to the narrative reason for separation 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 12 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 they were experiencing a depressed mood as they were going through a breakup and their issues have since resolved. The Applicant states they do not believe they have any mental health issues and would like to rejoin the Air Force. The Applicant states they have finished their associate degree, organized a local soccer league, is working part-time, and regularly attends church.

The Applicant provided the following documents in support of their claim: DD 214, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*; Notification Memorandum; AF Form 100, *Request and Authorization for Separation*; Brook Army Medical Center Document; Doctor Note After Discharge.

The Applicant was diagnosed during week three of basic military training for adjustment disorder with a depressed mood and did not desire to return to training due to the stress. The Applicant was found to not meet retention standards and discharged due to an erroneous enlistment.

The DRB determined the discharge was proper and equitable and did not find sufficient evidence that the

Applicant's condition has resolved or would not jeopardize their own health or the mission if allowed to reenter the Air Force. The Board noted that the current "2C" reentry code on the Applicant's DD214 may allow the Applicant to apply to another service following their process and possibly requiring a waiver. The DRB commends the Applicant on their post-service achievements but did not find sufficient evidence to warrant an upgrade.

**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 checked the box for "other mental health" on the application. The Applicant contended "at the time I was experiencing a depressed mood and heartache because I was going through a painful breakup from my girlfriend. Those issues have resolved, I am no longer with her, and more than anything I want to serve in the Air Force. I don't believe I have any mental health issues, and I am fully capable of performing my duty."*

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

*A review of the Applicant's in-service medical records revealed the Applicant received inpatient and outpatient mental health services during their thirty-two days time in service due to stating suicidal ideation. The Applicant's records revealed the Applicant received the diagnosis in service of adjustment disorder.*

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

*A review of the Applicant's DD214 revealed the Applicant received an uncharacterized entry level separation due to erroneous entry with one month, two days time in service. There is evidence the Applicant exhibited and endorsed difficulty adjusting to the military lifestyle and poor coping skills related to their interpersonal relationships, resulting in their in-service diagnosis of adjustment disorder which may explain the Applicant's discharge but does not mitigate the Applicant's discharge. A review of the Applicant's in-service administrative and medical records revealed the Applicant did not want to continue military training and requested to be discharged due to the increased stress of the military environment, making it known to military training instructors and their leadership on multiple occasions that they would rather die than continue in military training. A review of the Applicant's Area Defense Counsel (ADC) Consultation Questionnaire revealed the Applicant handwrote "I do not want to talk to defense counsel because I want to be separated from the Air Force."*

*The Applicant submitted a letter from a primary care doctor noted they were evaluated three years post-service and denied any mental health symptoms. The Discharge Review Board is not the waiver authority for re-entry and will not opine on the Applicant's current fitness for military service. The Applicant was discharged due to erroneous entry, at the "snapshot in time" of the Applicant's service the Applicant's records revealed the Applicant exhibited and endorsed symptoms of a mental health condition that impaired their ability to effectively perform their military duties. Further, the Applicant made it known they did not desire to continue in military training. There is no evidence the Applicant's discharge was improper or did*

*not follow the requirements of Entry Level Separation IAW 36-3208.*

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

*There is no evidence the Applicant's discharge was improper or did not follow the requirements of Entry Level Separation IAW 36-3208. The Applicant did not complete the entry level status of 365 days of service as detailed in AFI 36-3208, thus the characterization of the Applicant's service was appropriately deemed as uncharacterized and the corresponding narrative reason for separation and re-entry code appropriately corresponded to the Applicant's uncharacterized separation and were outweighed by a mental health condition.*

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 narrative reason for separation and to change the 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, service/medical record entries, and discharge process, the Board found the discharge was proper and equitable. Therefore, the awarded characterization of service shall remain "Uncharacterized," the narrative reason for separation shall remain "Erroneous Entry," and the reentry code shall remain "2B." The DRB results were approved by the Presiding Officer on 15 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 20762-6435

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

Attachment:  
Examiner's Brief (Applicant Only)