

AIR FORCE DISCHARGE REVIEW BOARD DECISIONAL DOCUMENT**CASE NUMBER
FD-2024-00497**

SUMMARY: The Applicant was discharged on 31 March 2020 in accordance with Air Force Instruction 36-3208, *Administrative Separation of Airmen*, with an Honorable discharge for Conscientious Objector. The Applicant appealed for a change to the reentry code.

The Applicant requested the Board be completed based on a records only review. The Board was conducted on 09 January 2025. 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.

Per the application, the Applicant separated from the military with an approved conscientious objector status, citing a strict and religious upbringing that conflicted with military service. They explained that their personal beliefs were ultimately incompatible with the demands of military life at the time. Since separating, the Applicant contended they had grown and matured, leading them to reevaluate their beliefs. This introspection resulted in a significant shift, as they no longer adhered to the same religion or religious beliefs. Consequently, the Applicant requested a change to their reentry code to allow them to re-enter the military as an officer. They expressed a strong desire to serve their country once again, believing they would find fulfillment by commissioning into the military and leading Airmen in Security Forces. The Applicant was seeking an upgrade to their re-entry code based on other mental health issues/conditions.

The DRB determined that the Applicant's request for reentry fell outside the scope of their authority. The Board acknowledged the Applicant's prior separation, granted after a thorough investigation confirmed their sincerely held religious beliefs conflicted with military service. While the Applicant later attributed their reentry request to "other mental health issues/conditions," they provided no supporting evidence to substantiate this claim or demonstrate its relevance to their desire to re-enlist. The DRB is not the waiver authority for re-entry and will not opine on the Applicant's current fitness for military service. The Board

advised the Applicant to pursue a waiver through the Air Force Recruiting Service per DAFMAN 36-2032, *Military Recruiting and Accessions*.

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:

Liberal consideration does not apply to this applicant's request. Although the Applicant checked the box for "other mental health" on the application the Applicant made no mental health contentions and provided no evidence regarding an in-service mental health condition related to his request for relief from the board. 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 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.

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

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 "Conscientious Objector," and the reentry code shall remain "2N." The DRB results were approved by the Presiding Officer on 3 March 2025. 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

Attachment:
Examiner's Brief (Applicant Only)