

**SUMMARY:** The Applicant was discharged on 14 November 2019 in accordance with Air Force Instruction 36-3208, Administrative Separation of Airmen, with an Uncharacterized Entry Level Separation for Condition, Not a Disability. The Applicant appealed for an upgrade of their discharge reentry code.

The Applicant requested the Board be completed based on a records only review. The Board was conducted on 9 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.

In the application, the Applicant requested an upgrade to change their re-entry code allowing them to enlist into the military again. The Applicant contended they were young and immature during their first enlistment and now regrets the decisions that led to their discharge and would like to fulfill that commitment. After being discharge, the Applicant sought treatment for two months and did not struggle with mental health or utilized any resources for mental health in the past five years since separation.

A review of the records revealed the Applicant was discharged with an entry-level separation due to adjustment disorder with mixed anxiety and depressed mood. A clinical psychologist confirmed that the condition was so severe that the Applicant's ability to function in the military environment was significantly impaired. It was not recommended the Applicant return to training, and they were ultimately discharged. Based on the record, there is no evidence the Applicant's discharge was improper or did not follow the requirements of Entry Level Separation IAW AFI 36-3208. Further, no additional supporting documents or evidence was presented by the Applicant. The DRB is not the waiver authority for re-entry and will not

opine on the Applicant's current fitness for military service. Therefore, the DRB found no evidence of inequity or impropriety to warrant a change in the reentry code.

### **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 "I am requesting the board to review my re-enlistment code so that I may re-enlist into the US military going forward. I enlisted in 2019 at the age of 18 and dealt with homesickness and immaturity as I did not understand how to handle the commitment I had made to USAF. From that time I have learned and matured, living on my own and providing for myself. In that time I have come to realize that it has been one of my greatest regrets not being able to fulfill the commitment I made to my country, and it is my wish to be able to do just that. I received counseling for about 2 months after being separated from basic training and I have not needed any form of mental help or have had any issues with mental issues since. While in basic training I had very superficial cuts on my arm and it was very clear that I was merely home sick and not able to handle commitment. I have no such problems now being over 5 years later I have learned discipline and focus. I believe that I would be a valuable asset to the US Military as I have maintained a great physical and more importantly mental state. I hope the board reconsiders my separation so that I may be allowed to serve my country."*

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 his thirty days' time in service due to stating suicidal ideation and self-harming behaviors related to separation from his primary support system and homesickness at the initiation of basic military training. 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 a condition, not a disability with one month time in service.*

*There is evidence the applicant exhibited and endorsed difficulty adjusting to the military lifestyle and poor coping skills related to his separation from his primary support system, resulting in his 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 that he did not want to continue in the military and wanted to return home.*

*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 a condition, not a disability; 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 his ability to effectively perform his military duties. Further, the applicant made it known he did not desire to continue his military training due to the stress of the training environment and his dislike of being separated from his primary support system. 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 360 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 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://afrbportal.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 "Uncharacterized Entry Level Separation," 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 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)