

**SUMMARY:** The Applicant was discharged on 17 November 2022 in accordance with Air Force Instruction 36-3208, *Administrative Separation of Airmen*, with an Uncharacterized Discharge for Failed Medical/Physical Procurement Standards. The Applicant appealed for an upgrade of their discharge characterization, a change to the discharge narrative reason, 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 23 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 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 stated they were discharged after being diagnosed with Myopericarditis, which was attributed to a Rhinovirus infection. They explained that the discharge was classified as an erroneous enlistment under the justification that the condition existed prior to service. However, the Applicant disputed this claim, providing evidence that they showed no signs or symptoms of illness before or during enlistment processing at MEPS and that the gestation period for Rhinovirus indicated they likely contracted the virus after arriving at Basic Military Training (BMT). The Applicant also contested that medical notes from some evaluations inaccurately stated they reported cold-like symptoms before arriving at BMT, a claim they denied and which was not supported by other documentation. Additionally, the Applicant asserted they were verbally counseled that they could rejoin the military once medically cleared, which influenced their decision to waive their right to counsel. They further stated they were not informed that the 4C reentry code associated with their discharge would permanently bar them from re-enlistment. Having since been medically cleared by a cardiologist, the Applicant sought to have their reentry code changed, contending that the discharge and reentry code were both inequitable and improper due to the misclassification of their condition as EPTS, inaccuracies in medical documentation, and a lack of full and transparent counseling during the discharge process.

The DRB determined that the Applicant's discharge during the entry-level period of service was appropriately uncharacterized, as outlined in AFI 36-3208. However, the Board's medical advisor found that the Applicant's myocarditis was incorrectly documented as an "existing prior to service" (EPTS) condition. Evidence, including medical records and the gestation period of Rhinovirus, indicated the condition developed after enlistment. This misclassification likely led to the assignment of a 4C reentry code, permanently barring reenlistment.

The Applicant provided credible evidence of full medical recovery, including a 2024 echocardiogram confirming normal cardiac function. In accordance with DoDI 6130.03-V1 standards, the Applicant's current health status no longer disqualifies them from military service. While the DRB upheld the original entry-level separation due to the Applicant's acknowledgment of being physically unable to complete training, they determined that the misclassification and subsequent recovery justified updating the reentry code to correct the inequity and allow for future reenlistment opportunities.

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 **approve** the Applicant's request to change the discharge narrative reason and the reentry code; however, it voted unanimously to **deny** an upgrade of the discharge characterization.

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," the narrative reason for separation shall change to "Secretarial Authority," and the reentry code shall change to "3K." The DRB results were approved by the Presiding Officer on 26 January 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)

