

**SUMMARY:** The Applicant was discharged on 18 August 2023 in accordance with Department of the Air Force Instruction 36-3211, *Military Separations*, with an Uncharacterized discharge for Condition, Not a Disability. The Applicant appealed for an upgrade of their discharge characterization and a change to the reentry code.

The Applicant requested the Board be completed based on a records review only. The Board was conducted on 06 March 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.

The Applicant stated they understood the severity of their mistake and requested a second chance to serve in the Air Force. This request was to satisfy their aspirations to serve, protect, and prove they were more than their circumstance. In a letter to the Board, the Applicant articulated two periods of being overly stressed, which resulted in two self-injury incidents. The Applicant went on to state the diagnosis of Depression was not accurate as the diagnosis of Adjustment Disorder was the only one given at the military treatment facility. Lastly, the Applicant stated they had no doubts about their ability to serve and protect and would be grateful to do so again.

The DRB found that, despite the Applicant's assertions of administrative errors and misdiagnosis leading to an improper discharge, there was no compelling evidence to support these claims. While the Board acknowledged the Applicant's mental health challenges, it concluded that the Applicant did not provide sufficient evidence to overcome the presumption of regularity. The request for a second chance was considered; however, the Applicant's efforts—such as character statements and attempts to re-enlist—were

not considered substantial enough to indicate a significant change in character or to outweigh the reasons for the discharge.

Lastly, the Applicant sought to upgrade their Uncharacterized Entry Level Separation to Honorable. However, the Applicant's service did not meet the minimum 365 days requirement for such a characterization. According to DoDI 1332.14, separations within this timeframe automatically result in an Uncharacterized Entry Level Separation, regardless of the discharge circumstances. Thus, the Board determined that the Applicant's discharge status will remain unchanged.

#### **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 "Understanding the mistake I have made and its severity, it is of my most aspirations to be given a the chance to the serve protect. With this motive, I have continued fighting for the chance to serve since the I was to out-process. With that being multiple recruiters of the USAF, to being able to have the opportunity to have my case reviewed by this very board, so I just may be able to go back to a recruiters office and re-enlist with not only self-worth but to prove that I am more than my circumstance."*

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

*A review of the Applicant's in-service records revealed the Applicant received outpatient and inpatient mental health services during her time in service for symptoms including suicidal ideation and self-injurious behavior.*

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 seven months, nine days' time in service.*

*The Applicant's contentions to the Board are unclear. There is no evidence the Applicant was discharged due to a "mistake" as noted by the Applicant in their request for relief. A review of the Applicant's in-service records revealed the Applicant endorsed suicidal ideation, multiple incidents of self-injurious behavior, and difficulty regulating their emotions in response to perceived external stressors. There is evidence the Applicant exhibited and endorsed difficulty adjusting to the military lifestyle and poor coping skills, resulting in their in-service diagnosis of adjustment disorder, which may explain the Applicant's misconduct but does not mitigate the Applicant's discharge.*

*There is no evidence the Applicant's discharge was improper or did not follow the requirements of Entry Level Separation IAW 36-3211. The Applicant did not complete the entry level status of 365 days of service as detailed in AFI 36-3211, thus the characterization of the Applicant's service was appropriately deemed as Uncharacterized and is not outweighed by a mental health condition.*

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 36-3211. The Applicant did not complete the entry level status of 365 days of service as detailed in AFI 36-3211, thus the characterization, narrative reason, or re-entry code is not outweighed.*

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 upgrade their discharge characterization 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.

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 "Uncharacterized," 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 26 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)

