

**SUMMARY:** The Applicant was discharged on 7 August 2024 in accordance with Department of the Air Force Instruction 36-3211, *Military Separations*, with an Under Honorable Condition - (General) Discharge for Misconduct (Drug Abuse). 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 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 was discharged for alleged illegal drug use, a classification they assert was based on an error of fact. They admit to dishonesty on their SF-86 security clearance questionnaire, where they falsely claimed drug use to avoid a top-secret clearance position, but maintain they have never used illegal drugs and point to a clean drug testing record as evidence. The Applicant argues their discharge was improper, as the separation should have been for their false statement, not drug use, and inequitable given their commendable service record, immaturity at the time, and demonstrated capacity to serve. They have expressed sincere remorse, citing this experience as a turning point in their understanding of military values, and request a discharge upgrade to reflect their personal growth and commitment to re-enlisting and contributing to the mission with integrity.

The Applicant provided the following documents in support of their claim:

- DD214
- Certificates
- Separation Packet
- Coins
- Character Statements
- Drug Test Results

The DRB found that the Applicant's admissions on their SF-86, which included using marijuana approximately two dozen times and prior use of psychedelic mushrooms and MDMA, aligned with the Air Force's classification of "Misconduct - Drug Abuse" under DAFI 36-3211, paragraph 7.43. This regulation establishes that drug abuse is incompatible with military service. Although the Applicant later claimed these admissions were false and made solely to avoid a top-secret clearance position, the Board

determined there was no verifiable evidence to support this claim beyond the Applicant's own statement. In the absence of corroborating documentation, the narrative reason for separation as "Misconduct - Drug Abuse" was deemed appropriate.

While the Applicant provided evidence of a clean drug testing record, it did not refute their admissions on the SF-86 or their failure to disclose prior drug use on enlistment forms, both of which violated the integrity standards outlined in the Air Force Drug and Alcohol Abuse Certification. The Applicant's request to reclassify the narrative reason to "Fraudulent Entry" or another category was considered but rejected, as the evidence supported the original classification. The lack of substantiating evidence for the Applicant's claims further reinforced the Board's decision to deny any changes to the discharge characterization or narrative reason.

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, to change the discharge narrative reason, 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 "Under Honorable Condition - (General)," the narrative reason for separation shall remain "Misconduct (Drug Abuse)," and the reentry code shall remain "2B." The DRB results were approved by the Presiding Officer on 27 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)