

SUMMARY: The Applicant was discharged on 23 July 2021 in accordance with Air Force Instruction 36-3208, *Administrative Separation of Airmen*, with an Uncharacterized discharge for Fraudulent Entry. The Applicant appealed for 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 10 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 their application, the applicant stated that, upon reviewing their discharge record, they discovered that the separation authority had approved their separation code as JFC with the narrative reason "Erroneous Entry," as confirmed by the AFPC separation office. However, their current discharge record reflects a separation code of JDA with the narrative reason "Fraudulent Entry." The applicant is also requesting a change to their reentry code from 2C to either 3A or 3K, as the 2C code prevents future military service. They asserted that the mental health episodes they experienced during basic training were isolated incidents and that they had no such issues before or since. They further argued that the previous diagnosis does not disqualify them under accession medical standards outlined in DoDI 6130.03 and should not preclude their eligibility for reentry into military service.

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

- Certificate of Discharge
- Patient Discharge Summary
- Request and Authorization for Separation

- Email noting erroneous SPD code
- Brooke Army Medical Center paperwork
- DoDI 6130.03 excerpts

A review of the record revealed the applicant's separation code and narrative reason were incorrectly recorded as JDA ("Fraudulent Entry") instead of JFC ("Erroneous Entry") due to an apparent clerical error. While this error warrants correction, it does not reflect inequity or impropriety in the discharge. The applicant's discharge was due to a diagnosed adjustment disorder during Basic Military Training, which disqualified them under DoDI 6130.03, Volume 1, *Medical Standards for Military Service: Appointment, Enlistment, or Induction*. The applicant voluntarily requested separation due to difficulty coping with the training environment. The reentry code (2C) accurately reflects the circumstances of the discharge, and no evidence was provided to support an upgrade. The board concluded that the discharge was proper and equitable and will issue a separate document to correct the noted clerical error in the applicant's records. Reentry eligibility and/or waiver request falls outside the board's authority. As such, the DRB will not opine on the Applicant's current fitness for military service.

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 checked the box for "other mental health" on the application. The applicant contended "the mental health episode I previously encountered was a one time issue, I never experienced any such issues prior to or following basic training. The previous diagnosis is not disqualifying under accession medical standards per DoDI 6130.03 paras 6.28.g and 6.28.m and therefore I should not be barred from future military service."

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 twenty-five days time in service due to stating suicidal ideation and anxious distress related to his inability to cope with the training environment at the initiation of basic military training. 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 fraudulent entry with twenty five days time in service.

A review of the applicant's in-service records revealed the applicant reported daily significant depressed mood, anxious distress and panic attacks in the context of the training environment with high utilization of medical services. The applicant's records revealed he was informed his condition of adjustment disorder was disqualifying for military service per DoDI 6130.03. 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 and inability to tolerate the military training environment, 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.

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 discharge narrative reason, and to change the reentry code due to impropriety or inequity. It will direct a correction to the narrative reason due to clerical error.

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.

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" and the reentry code shall remain "2C." Narrative reason will be changed to "Erroneous Enlistment" due to clerical error. The DRB results were approved by the Presiding Officer on 24 Jan 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

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

Attachment:
Examiner's Brief (Applicant Only)