

SUMMARY: The Applicant was discharged on 19 June 2019 in accordance with Air Force Instruction 36-3208, *Administrative Separation of Airmen*, with an Under Other Than Honorable Conditions (UOTHC) Discharge for Misconduct (Serious Offense). The Applicant appealed for an upgrade of their discharge Characterization, a change to the discharge Narrative Reason, and a change to the Separation Code.

The Applicant requested the Board be completed based on a Records Review. The Board was conducted on 03 April 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 Applicant's record of service included the following documented misconduct leading up to their discharge:

- Letter of Reprimand for unauthorized purchase on government travel card (GTC)
- Letter of Reprimand for failing to report to work at the directed time
- Letter of Counseling for failing to report to work at the directed time
- Letter of Counseling for failing to report to work at the directed time

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's counsel argues that a single incident of poor judgment involving a physical altercation should not diminish the Applicant's years of dedicated service. They contend the incident stemmed from personal, non-military issues and that alternative corrective measures, such as counseling or anger management, would have been more appropriate than discharge. The counsel further asserts that, given the Applicant's post-service leadership, community involvement, and accomplishments, the corrective action has served its purpose.

The DRB determined the Applicant's discharge was proper and equitable. The Applicant contends their misconduct only involved a physical altercation however, there were other misconduct in the Applicant's administrative records that were not addressed. Through the administrative actions taken by the chain of command in this case, the Applicant had ample opportunities to change their negative behavior. The DRB recognized the Applicant served five years before the being discharged and reviewed the entire service record but concluded the seriousness of the Applicant's willful misconduct (harm to others, failure to go, and misuse of GTC) offset the positive aspects of their service. In addition, the Board acknowledges the Applicant's present service characterization renders them ineligible for Department of Veteran Affairs education benefits. However, this is not a matter of inequity or impropriety which would warrant an

upgrade. Therefore, the DRB denied the Applicant's request to upgrade their discharge characterization, to change the discharge narrative reason, and to change the separation code.

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 Separation Code.

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 Other Than Honorable Conditions (UOTHC)," the narrative reason for separation shall remain "Misconduct (Serious Offense)," and the reenry code shall remain "2B." The DRB results were approved by the Presiding Officer on 9 April 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)