

SUMMARY: The Applicant was discharged on 03 February 2014 in accordance with Air Force Instruction 36-3208, *Administrative Separation of Airmen*, with an Honorable Discharge for Erroneous Entry. The Applicant appealed for 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 only review. The Board was conducted on 03 April 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 Applicant's record of service does not include any documented misconduct leading up to their discharge.

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 a diagnosis of patellofemoral syndrome which was claimed to have existed prior to service resulting in a Narrative Reason of Erroneous Entry. The Applicant contends their narrative reason changed shortly after the U.S Government announced a reduction of forces. They stated the narrative reason is prohibiting them from being able to utilize their Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits. In addition, they state they are still having chronic pain and mental health issues.

The DRB determined the Applicant's discharge was inequitable and improper. An administrative and medical review of the Applicant's record revealed they successfully completed basic military training (BMT) and the first three blocks of technical training where they suffered an injury. It was later determined during medical imaging that the Applicant suffered from stress fractures to the knee and hip and bilateral shin splints. The Applicant attempted rehab and was recommended convalescent leave for more concentrated healing. However, the Applicant was denied that option on the basis of being recommended for discharge which was improper. The Board determined the Applicant sustained a traumatic injury during training, so assigning an overuse-based diagnosis was inappropriate. Further, patellofemoral syndrome is treatable, manageable, and defined by the presence of pain rather than a physical finding such as bone deformity or tissue edema. There is no reason to believe that the Applicant had patellofemoral syndrome prior to enlisting, or even prior to the trauma of the fall. Therefore, the Board granted the Applicant's change to their Narrative Reason and 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.

FINDING: The DRB voted unanimously to ***approve*** the Applicant’s request 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 improper and inequitable. Therefore, the awarded characterization of service shall remain “Honorable,” the narrative reason for separation shall change to “Secretarial Authority,” and the Reentry Code shall remain “2C.” The DRB results were approved by the Presiding Officer on 8 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)