

**SUMMARY:** The Applicant was discharged on 02 March 2014 in accordance with Air Force Instruction 36-3208, *Administrative Separation of Airmen*, with an Under Honorable Conditions – (General) Discharge for Misconduct (Serious Offense). The Applicant appealed for an upgrade of their discharge characterization.

The Applicant requested the Board be completed based on a records only review. The Board was conducted on 20 February 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 included the following documented misconduct leading up to their discharge:

- Article 15 for obstruction of justice by providing a false statement to investigating officers.

The documentary evidence the Board considered as part of the review included, but was 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 acknowledged that, as a young and inexperienced Airman, they made a regrettable mistake. However, they emphasized that this error did not define their character or reflect the person they had become since their separation from the Air Force. The Applicant took responsibility for their actions and recognized the severity of their mistake at the time. They also highlighted their personal growth and achievements since leaving the Air Force, demonstrating a positive trajectory and a commitment to learning from their mistakes. Furthermore, the Applicant noted that their actions were isolated and did not directly impact or compromise the performance of their fellow Airmen. In light of this, they respectfully requested that their characterization of service be reevaluated, as they believed that their overall service and subsequent personal development warranted a more favorable assessment.

The Board determined that the Applicant did not meet the burden of proof to demonstrate that their discharge was improper or inequitable. The Applicant's offenses—providing alcohol to a minor and obstructing justice—demonstrated a serious breach of military conduct, outweighing claims of youth and inexperience. The Board found the Applicant's actions to be premeditated and deceptive, involving a conspiracy to mislead authorities. Furthermore, the Applicant's statement lacked convincing evidence of rehabilitation or a full understanding of their misconduct's impact. The absence of supporting documentation, such as letters of recommendation or proof of community involvement, further weakened their case. Finally, the Applicant's prior record of misconduct, including misuse of a government travel card

and failure to pay a debt, solidified the board's perception of a pattern of poor judgment, ultimately leading to their decision.

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.

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 Conditions – (General),” the narrative reason for separation shall remain “Misconduct (Serious Offense),” and the reentry code shall remain “2B.” The DRB results were approved by the Presiding Officer on 3 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)

