

**SUMMARY:** The Applicant was discharged on 01 October 2013 in accordance with Air Force Instruction 36-3209, *Separation and Retirement Procedures for Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve Members*, Paragraph 3.21.3.2 with an Under Honorable Conditions – (General) Discharge for Misconduct - Drug Abuse Through Urinalysis. The Applicant appealed for an upgrade of their discharge characterization 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 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 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 requested a change in their character of service from a general discharge to an honorable discharge. They were discharged from the Air National Guard in 2013 due to a failed urinalysis for marijuana. The Applicant took full responsibility for their actions, acknowledging that they succumbed to peer pressure and made a regrettable decision. They highlighted their otherwise dedicated service, including achievements such as graduating with distinguished honors and earning awards for their work ethic and performance. Since their discharge, the Applicant had overcome challenges, including depression and financial hardship, and had gone on to achieve academic and professional success, including earning a degree and being accepted into a prestigious program. They demonstrated a commitment to the core values of the Air Force, including integrity, service, and excellence, and hoped that the Board would consider their request for a character of service change, taking into account their overall record of service and post-discharge accomplishments.

The Board determined that the Applicant did not provide evidence to upgrade the discharge on grounds of inequity or impropriety. Despite commendable post-service achievements, the board emphasized that even marijuana use constitutes a serious breach of military code of conduct, outweighing the Applicant's positive post-service record. Therefore, the Board affirmed the Applicant's current discharge status.

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 Board voted unanimously to *deny* the Applicant's request to upgrade their discharge characterization 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://afrbportal.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 - Drug Abuse Through Urinalysis," and the reentry code shall remain "6H." 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)