

SUMMARY: The Applicant was discharged on October 28, 2013 in accordance with Air Force Instruction 36-3208, Administrative Separation of Airmen, with an Under Honorable Conditions (General) Service Characterization for Misconduct (Minor Infractions). The Applicant requested an upgrade of their Service Characterization, a change to the Narrative Reason for separation, and a change to the Reentry Code.

The Applicant requested the Board be completed based on a Record Review. The Board was conducted on December 18, 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, including evidence submitted by the Applicant. The Board thoroughly reviewed 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 Applicant's record of service included the following documented misconduct leading up to their discharge:

- Article 15 for willfully failing to refrain from consuming alcoholic beverages under the age of 21
- Article 15 for unlawfully touching an Airman on the body
- Vacation of suspended punishment for striking another Airman in the face with closed hand
- Letter of Counseling for failure to comply with orders and meet living conditions

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 stated they experienced multiple instances of sexual assault, sexual harassment, and military sexual trauma while in the Air Force which led to undiagnosed posttraumatic service disorder (PTSD), underage drinking, and an Article 15. They are seeking relief based on their post-service accomplishments.

The DRB determined the discharge was proper and equitable. A review confirmed that the discharge was based on several administrative actions, including two Article 15s. While the DRB noted the Applicant's success since leaving the Air Force, a comprehensive review of the entire service record revealed no impropriety or inequity that would justify a change. Furthermore, the Applicant failed to provide sufficient documentation

regarding the Wilkie factors for an upgrade to be considered. Therefore, the Board denied the requests to upgrade the Service Characterization, change the Narrative Reason for separation, and alter the Reentry Code.

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 contended "when I was in the Air Force I experienced sexual assault on multiple occasions. I experienced groping and grooming at my squadron at ██████████ AFB, rape by a fellow airman off base while training at ██████████ AFB, and rape and continuous harassment by two fellow Airman at ██████████ AFB, one was an intimate partner who threatened me on multiple occasions. This led to undiagnosed PTSD, and I began underage drinking which was a part of my reason for receiving and Article 15. Now, at 31 years old, I am the Assistant Veteran Services Coordinator for [location] where I help fellow veterans with their benefits. My life is completely different compared to my time in service, but I still live a life of servitude where I serve my community with honor and integrity. Although my time in service was cut short, I am still proud to say I did service in the United States Air Force. I humbly ask to be considered for a discharge upgrade based on my experiences in the Air Force and my hard work since serving in the military."

2. Did that condition exist/experience occur during military service?

A review of the Applicant's records revealed the Applicant was referred to mental services and Family Advocacy Program (FAP) services in the context of relationship break-up and no-contact order being issued against the Applicant. A review of the available records revealed the Applicant denied any symptoms of PTSD from their pre-service experiences during their time in service. The Applicant's records revealed the Applicant was referred for a command directed evaluation (CDE) as part of their discharge processing that revealed diagnoses of adjustment disorder and personality disorder. There is no evidence the Applicant received the diagnosis of PTSD during their time in service; there is no evidence the Applicant exhibited or endorsed any clinically significant indicators of PTSD during their time in service.

3. Does that condition, or experience actually excuse or mitigate the discharge?

A review of the Applicant's DD214 revealed the Applicant was discharged with a general character of service due to misconduct (minor infractions) with one year six months sixteen days time in service. A review of the Applicant's discharge package revealed the Applicant received nonjudicial punishment, a vacation a suspended nonjudicial punishment and one Letter of Counseling during their brief time in service. The Applicant's discharge package revealed the misconducts that led to the Applicant's discharge included the Applicant failed to clear out a dorm room and return keys after a no-contact order had been issued, unlawfully struck another Airman on the face with a closed hand, unlawfully touched another Airman on the body, and underage drinking. A review of the Applicant's "Memorandum for the Separation Authority" is contradictory to the Applicant's testimony regarding their in-service experiences and misconducts. The Applicant stated in their Memorandum for the Separation Authority that they experienced pre-service abuse from their father and also provided detailed reasonings for each of their misconducts that did not include sexual assault or rape of any mention. Based on a review of the available administrative and medical records, there is no evidence the Applicant reported any in-service experiences rape, sexual harassment, or sexual assault during their time in service, nor

is that requisite for liberal consideration. It is possible the Applicant experienced multiple rapes and sexual harassment during their time in service. Based on the information available for review, there is no evidence the post-service claims and contentions made by the Applicant impacted the Applicant's behavior or contributed to the misconduct that led to their discharge. Further, the intent of liberal consideration generally does not apply to misconduct involving harm to others, including striking of the face with a closed hand, and unlawful touching of the body.

4. Does that condition, or experience outweigh the discharge?

Because the Applicant's discharge is not mitigated or excused, the Applicant's discharge is also not outweighed.

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 AND 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. The DRB voted unanimously to *deny* the Applicant's request. Therefore, the awarded Service Characterization shall remain "Under Honorable Conditions (General)," the Narrative Reason for separation shall remain Misconduct (Minor Infractions), and the Reentry Code shall remain 2B. The DRB results were approved by the Presiding Officer on January 20, 2026.

Should the Applicant wish to appeal this decision, they 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>

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)