

SUMMARY: The Applicant was discharged on July 17, 2017 in accordance with Air Force Instruction 36-3208, Administrative Separation of Airmen, with an Uncharacterized / Entry Level Separation Service Characterization for Adjustment Disorder. The Applicant requested 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 did 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 stated during Basic Military Training they experienced significant personal hardships which led to them seeking discharge. They stated they now recognize that leaving the military was a mistake and they do not believe they have any underlying mental health issues and would like a second chance to serve in the military.

The DRB determined the discharge was inequitable. A review of the Applicant's records revealed that the discharge stemmed from a diagnosis of an adjustment disorder with mixed anxiety and depressed mood from a licensed clinical psychiatrist. Based on this, the Board concluded that the narrative reason for the discharge should be corrected to align with current policy. However, the Board denied the Applicant's request to change their reentry code because the Applicant did not provide substantial documentation of their post-service accomplishments to warrant an upgrade under the Wilkie factors.

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 'In 2017, when I was 22, I attended BMT for the Air Force where I was a student leader. During BMT I received news that three family members and two close friends of mine had passed away while I was gone. Getting that news while being away from home for the first time really affected me. When I got to Tech school there was no A/C or cold water in my room. Under those circumstances, it became hard to focus on my training. Looking back now those reasons don't seem like a good enough reason to leave and I see that now. I do not feel that I have a mental disorder or have anxiety, I feel that being 22 years old and having loved ones pass away in a short amount of time along with the living conditions got to me. I have grown in the past 7 years and being discharged from the military was the worst mistake I've ever made. I would be grateful to have my RE code changed so I can rejoin the Armed Forces and undo the mistake I made 7 years ago and fight for my country. I would like my request granted to change my RE code to one that allows me to reenlist because I want the opportunity to join the Armed Forces again.'

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

The Board considered the "Kurta Memo" guidance that a "diagnosis made by a licensed psychiatrist or psychologist that the condition existed during military service will receive liberal consideration." In this case, a review of the available records revealed that a psychologist diagnosed the Applicant with adjustment disorder, depressed mood and anxiety during their time in service, so the condition existed during military service.

A review of the Applicant's in service records revealed the Applicant attended three sessions of mental health therapy during their time in service and endorsed symptoms of low mood, feelings of isolation and symptoms of anxiety related to their desire to discontinue military training and return home.

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

The Board reviewed the available records and the Applicant's personal testimony and determined that the Applicant's mental health condition does not actually excuse or mitigate the discharge. A review of the Applicant's DD214 revealed the Applicant was discharged with an uncharacterized Entry Level Separation due to adjustment disorder with four months, one days time in service. A review of the Applicant's in-service records revealed the Applicant sought and received mental health services during their time in service due to difficulty adapting to the military lifestyle. There is evidence the Applicant exhibited and endorsed difficulty adjusting to the military lifestyle and ineffective coping skills, resulting in their in service diagnosis of adjustment disorder with disturbance of mood and contact, which may explain the Applicant's discharge but did not mitigate or excuse the Applicant's discharge.

The Applicant requested to have their re-entry code changed to rejoin the Armed Forces. The Discharge Review Board is not the waiver authority for re-entry and will not opine on the Applicant's current fitness for military service. At the time of the Applicant's discharge, the Applicant exhibited and endorsed symptoms of a mental health condition. Further, the Applicant made it known at the time of their discharge that they did not desire to

continue their military training. There was no evidence the Applicant's discharge was improper or did not follow the requirements of Entry Level Separation IAW 36-3208.

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

There was no evidence the Applicant's discharge was improper or did not follow the requirements of Entry Level Separation IAW 36-3208. The Applicant did not complete the entry level status of 180 days of service as detailed in AFI 36-3208, thus the characterization of the Applicant's service was appropriately deemed as uncharacterized and was not outweighed by a mental health condition.

Changes in policy, whereby a Service member under the same circumstances today would reasonably be expected to receive a more favorable outcome than the Applicant received, may be grounds for relief: The Applicant's discharge was caused by an unsuiting mental health condition, thus their discharge was not mitigated by their in-service mental health condition. However, in response to the Applicant's request, the Board recognizes the importance of accurate separation codes that do not inadvertently stigmatize Service members or disclose sensitive information. In July 2018, "condition, not a disability" was designated as the appropriate code family for separations based on non-disability mental health conditions. The Board recommends granting a change in the Applicant's narrative reason for separation to "condition, not a disability" with no change to the Applicant's corresponding re-entry 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 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 inequitable. The DRB voted unanimously to ***partially approve*** the Applicant's request. Therefore, the awarded Service Characterization shall remain "Uncharacterized / Entry Level Separation," the Narrative Reason for separation shall change to Condition, Not a Disability, and the Reentry Code shall remain 2C. 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)