

SUMMARY: The Applicant was discharged on 17 September 2015 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.

The Applicant requested the Board be completed based on a Record Review. The Board was conducted on 12 March 2026. 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:

- Multiple Letters of Counseling and Reprimand for dereliction of duty on numerous occasions and failure to go.
- Article 15 for additional dereliction of duty offense.

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 contended that they suffered a traumatic brain injury while serving on active duty which affected their quality of life. Prior to the injury, the Applicant claims their quality of military service met the standards outlined in Air Force Instruction 1-1. In addition, they feel that the military discharge that they were given was too harsh based on their overall quality of service.

A reveal of the Applicant's record revealed the Applicant was discharged due to a significant pattern of misconduct for multiple minor disciplinary infractions. The Applicant had several incidents of misconduct during his tenure in the service, mainly involving dereliction of duty by not following proper procedures and failure to report to duty. Overall, the Applicant received 10 Letters of Counseling and Reprimand and was also

punished under Article 15 for the offenses. The Applicant indicated on the application that they were submitting medical records with the application, however, they were never received, despite attempts to contact the Applicant. Due to lack of response from the Applicant, the application was adjudicated without these records. Should the Applicant submit the records, they may elect to request reconsideration.

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 checked the box for "TBI" on the application. The Applicant contended they suffered a head injury while serving on active duty and the injury resulted in a traumatic brain injury which affected their quality of life. Prior to the injury, the Applicant claimed their quality of military dedication and service met the standards as set forth in Air Force Instruction 1-1.

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

The Applicant indicated they intended to attach medical records to the application, however the records were never submitted. Based on a review of the Applicant's in-service medical records, there was no evidence the applicant endorsed, exhibited, or received any treatment for a TBI or associated sequelae during their time in service. There was also no evidence or records the Applicant endorsed, exhibited, or received any treatment for a TBI or associated sequelae post service. There was evidence that the Applicant sought and received mental health services during their time in service to address and understand pre-service trauma, although the Applicant's records revealed these symptoms did not impact their duty performance and existed prior to service.

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

A review of the Applicant's discharge package revealed the Applicant received several administrative actions for documented misconduct during their time in service. There was no evidence the Applicant endorsed, exhibited, or received any treatment for a TBI or associated sequelae during their time in service. There was also no evidence a mental health condition caused or excused the misconduct that led to the Applicant's discharge. There was evidence the Applicant exhibited and endorsed difficulty adjusting to the military lifestyle and poor coping skills, and the Applicant made it known they did not want to remain in the Air Force, which may explain the Applicant's misconduct but it does not constitute a mitigating mental health condition and does not mitigate the misconduct that led to the Applicant's discharge.

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

Because the Applicant's discharge was not excused by a TBI or subsequent sequelae nor any other mental health condition, the Applicant's discharge was 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 DRB also voted unanimously to *deny* changing the Narrative Reason and Reentry Code. Therefore, 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 March 18, 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>

Should the Applicant wish to appeal this decision, they must seek relief before the Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records (AFBCMR) in accordance with DAFI 36-2603, *Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records*.

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)