

SUMMARY: The Applicant was discharged on August 12, 2011 with a Bad Conduct Discharge after being convicted of Stealing Mail during a Special Court-Martial.

The Applicant requested the Board be completed based on a Record Review. The Board was conducted on March 19, 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 to their discharge:
- Article 15 – Disrespect to a Non-Commissioned Officer

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 states while deployed they were involved in a very bad vehicle rollover accident and was hospitalized. Their wife was told erroneously they died because of the accident, but it was another airman that died. When they returned from the deployment, they had constant nightmares of the accident and were super agitated all the time, resulting in their wife leaving which sent them down a road of destruction. They were continuously discouraged from getting help or making appointments to have counseling or medical appointments then marked down on their EPRs and constantly ridiculed. They felt like the chain of command didn't care about them and they started struggling financially, in relationships and their job performance. Prior to that they received multiple medals, were in the base honor guard, Distinguished Graduate in Basic Training, and had "firewall 5 EPRs" his entire career. After discharge and their marriage ended, they recognized the need to address the mental and emotional toll these experiences had taken. They have been in therapy for a decade, working diligently to process and overcome the challenges they faced. To this day they have headaches, pain, and PTSD via dreams and sudden effects when seeing car accidents on the side of the road. They have pursued higher education, earning a bachelor's degree and is within 14 credits of completing a master's degree in

information technology cyber security. They take full responsibility for their actions and decisions during service.

The DRB was pleased to see the Applicant has been successful since leaving the Air Force. However, the DRB reviewed the Applicant's entire service record and found insufficient evidence to grant the Applicant's request. The Board found the negative aspects of the Applicant's willful misconduct outweighed the positive aspects of their military service. The characterization of the discharge received by the Applicant was deemed to be appropriate.

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 "PTSD" on his application and contended that he deployed with the US Postal service in 2007 to Kosovo and was involved in a rollover vehicle accident and "when I returned home, I had constant nightmares of the accident, I was super agitated all the time, that resulted in my wife leaving back to the states which sent me down a road of destruction."

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

A review of the applicant's records revealed the applicant attended an intake session at the mental health clinic during his time in service due to "work stress" after he had come under investigation. There was no evidence that the applicant exhibited or endorsed any clinically significant features of PTSD, or any other mental health condition, during his time in service. There was no evidence that the Applicant received the diagnosis of PTSD during his time in service or post-service. A review of the Applicant's in-service records revealed the Applicant denied mental health symptoms when asked directly on his confinement and discharge screeners during his 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 Bad Conduct discharge by order of a Special Court Martial (#1 20101008) with seven years, seven days time in service. A review of the Applicant's records revealed the Applicant plead guilty to stealing mail and soliciting a navy service member to steal mail. The Applicant's records also revealed the Applicant received an Article 15 for use of disrespectful language to a superior officer. The Applicant contended that he went down a "road of destruction" after his wife left him to return to the states upon his return from a deployment. The Applicant did not provide any other clarifying information about how a mental health condition impacted his behavior, ability to perform his duties, or how a mental health condition contributed to the misconduct that led to his discharge.

There was no evidence of a mitigating nexus between the Applicant's contended in-service mental conditions and the misconduct(s) for which he was discharged. There was no evidence the Applicant exhibited or endorsed any clinically significant features of PTSD, or any other mental health condition, during his time in service. Further, premeditated misconduct is generally excluded from the intent of liberal consideration, including willfully stealing mail and soliciting other service members to steal mail.

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

Based on a review of the available records and in consideration of the Applicant's testimony There was no evidence that a mental health condition caused or mitigated the misconduct(s) that led to the Applicant's discharge, thus 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 "Bad Conduct Discharge," the Narrative Reason for separation shall remain Court Martial (Other), and the Reentry Code shall remain 2L. The DRB results were approved by the Presiding Officer on March 24, 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)