

SUMMARY: The Applicant was discharged on May 17, 2021 in accordance with *Air Force Instruction 36-3208, Administrative Separation of Airmen*, with an Under Other than Honorable Conditions Service Characterization for Misconduct (Minor Infractions). The Applicant appealed for an upgrade of their Service Characterization, a change to the Narrative Reason for separation, and a change to the Reentry Code.

The Applicant appeared and testified before the Discharge Review Board (DRB), without counsel, via video teleconference using Zoom on July 23, 2025. Witnesses were present to testify on the Applicant's behalf.

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 Applicant's record of service included the following documented misconduct leading up to their discharge:

- Article 15 for multiple attempts to exploit the trust of his fellow airman by soliciting and obtaining PII with the intent to commit fraud.
- Letter of Reprimand for wrongful possession of Xanax, a schedule IV controlled substance, and introducing the drug onto the local base.

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 an upgrade to a general (under honorable conditions) discharge, citing four years of honorable service and rehabilitation since separation. They believed the discharge was overly harsh given their overall record and stated the misconduct stemmed from financial hardship while supporting a grandparent. They claimed a lack of support from leadership and asserted they should have been offered rehabilitation. The Applicant sought access to VA mental health services and education benefits and believed the upgrade would help them start a family. Since separation, they had enrolled in a Bachelor's program in IT, volunteered with church groups addressing substance abuse and mental health, assisted children with disabilities, and had no law enforcement involvement. Their spouse testified in support of their character and service.

The DRB determined that the Applicant did not present sufficient evidence to warrant a change in the character of service and denied the request for upgrade. The discharge, issued for misconduct involving attempts to obtain personally identifiable information to commit fraud, was considered deliberate and serious. The Applicant failed to provide a clear or consistent explanation of the misconduct, did not demonstrate full accountability, and offered no substantial evidence of procedural error or injustice. Although the Applicant cited post separation rehabilitation efforts such as school enrollment, volunteer work, and community involvement, these actions did not outweigh the severity of the offense. The Board also found no evidence of an in-service mental

health condition or other mitigating factors that would qualify for liberal consideration. In the absence of compelling justification or new evidence, the Board upheld the original discharge decision.

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 Other than Honorable Conditions,” 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 August 4, 2025.

Should the Applicant wish to appeal this decision, the Applicant 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://afrbaportal.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)