

SUMMARY: The Applicant was discharged on November 20, 2009 in accordance with Air Force Instruction 36-3208, *Administrative Separation of Airmen*, with an Under Honorable Conditions (General) Service Characterization for Misconduct (Other). 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 August 28, 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 failure to properly out-process resulting to missed flight; failed dorm inspection

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 suffered from parotid fever due to exposure to the CBRN gas chamber during basic military training which left the entire left side of their face swollen and their forehead covered in bumps similar to acne. In addition, they stated their condition caused anxiety and affected their duty.

The Discharge Review Board (DRB) upheld the Applicant's discharge as proper and equitable. This decision was based on the Applicant's documented history of administrative corrective actions, including an Article 15, and two referral evaluation reports citing failures in personal and professional conduct both on and off duty. The DRB found no documented evidence of anxiety during the Applicant's service and, therefore, could not establish a nexus between the asserted mental health condition and the misconduct. Consequently, the Board denied the request for a change in service characterization.

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 does contend a condition or experience excused or mitigated their misconduct in that "The Applicant was physically suffering from parotid fever. As a result, from exposure to the CBRN gas chamber (auto-immune reaction the Applicant's entire left side face swollen and forehead covered in bumps of acne similar type. Later resulted in Sarcoidosis [sp] environment & my condition caused my anxiety & effected duty."

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

A review of the Applicant's records revealed the Applicant was discharged with an Under Honorable Conditions (General) character of service due to Misconduct (Other), with 2 years and 8 months of service. The condition/experience (Anxiety) was not documented to exist/occur during military service and no mental health diagnoses were documented during military service. While the Applicant presented as a walk-in to Mental Health Clinics, as "Pt reports to not being interested in MH svcs." they were released without limitations and directed to follow up as needed.

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

The Board members reviewed available records and determined there was no evidence that the Applicant's condition or experience had a direct impact or was a contributing factor to the acts of misconduct resulting in discharge. Therefore, the Applicant's condition or experience does not excuse or mitigate the discharge.

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

The Board members reviewed available records and determined that the Applicant's condition or experience does not outweigh the discharge.

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 (Other), and the Reentry Code shall remain 2B. The DRB results were approved by the Presiding Officer on September 3, 2025.

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://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)