

SUMMARY: The Applicant was discharged on December 26, 2017 in accordance with Air Force Instruction 36-3208, *Administrative Separation of Airmen*, with an Under Other than Honorable Conditions Service Characterization for Pattern of Misconduct. 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 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 sleeping on post
- Letter of Reprimand for destruction of property
- Letter of Reprimand for speeding on base
- Letter of Reprimand for reckless driving
- Letter of Reprimand for DUI
- Letter of Reprimand for evading arrest, reckless driving, possessing an open container of alcohol
- Letter of Counseling for failure to go (2x)

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 did not state any impropriety or inequity in their discharge. They stated their depression, severe anxiety, and a bad mood disorder with PTSD contributed to their drinking and led to their discharge. The Applicant is seeking relief and states since discharge they have acquired help and become a positive leader in their community and completed their bachelor's degree.

The DRB determined the discharge was proper and equitable, however decided the Applicant presented characteristics listed in the Wilkie Factor memorandum. A review of the Applicant's record revealed they were discharged due to a pattern of misconduct eight years ago. The Applicant provided substantial evidence proving their significant self-improvement to include completion of a bachelor's degree and missionary school, becoming a board member of their local chamber, seeking mental health treatment after discharge, and expungement of their records, and no other documented infractions. Due to these factors, the Board approved the Applicant's request.

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 the REVIEW OF DISCHARGE FROM THE ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES (DD FORM 293) that "DUE TO DEPRESSION, SEVERE ANXIETY AND A BAD MOOD DISORDER WITH PTSD [Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder]. WITH THE LACK OF POSITIVE COPING PRACTICES, I WAS DRINKING AND THIS ULTIMATELY LED TO MY DISCHARGE."

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

A review of the Applicant's records revealed an Alcohol Use Disorder did exist during military service. The Applicant self-referred to Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment (ADAPT) in October 2017 and received services (psychoeducation, alcohol education, counseling), but no referral to Mental Health was deemed necessary. They were seen at the Mental Health clinic in November 2017 and were subsequently diagnosed with Alcohol Use Disorder and were treated with individual psychotherapy. The psychologists attributed the concurrent symptoms of depression "likely due to the pt [patient] going through an administrative separation for repeated violations related to professional performance." The psychologists documented that reported diminished interest in activities, dissociative reactions, sleep disturbances, and distressing dreams were likely not related to deployment events.

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

A review of the Applicant's CERTIFICATE OF RELEASE OR DISCHARGE FROM ACTIVE DUTY (DD FORM 214) revealed the Applicant was discharged with an Under Other Than Honorable Conditions (UOTHC) character of service, due to a pattern of Misconduct (driving a vehicle under the influence of alcohol, driving recklessly, speeding, evading arrest, sleeping at post as a sentinel, failing to report, and defacing government property), with five years and nine months of service. The Applicant's records revealed that no mental health diagnoses were documented during military service, and mental health concerns were denied in the responses recorded in the Periodic Health Assessment (PHA). The symptoms of depression were likely secondary to the psychosocial circumstances related to the consequences of their misconduct, subsequent disciplinary actions, pending discharge, and alcohol abuse. Based on a review of available records, while there was evidence that an Alcohol Use Disorder contributed to some of their acts of misconduct, there was no evidence of a mental health condition that would excuse or mitigate the discharge. Additionally, the Applicant's misconduct of driving under the influence of alcohol, driving recklessly, speeding, and evading arrest are too serious and are not excused or mitigated by having a mental health condition.

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

There is no evidence a mental health condition mitigated or excused the Applicant's discharge. Therefore, a mental health condition does not outweigh the Applicant's 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.

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. However, based on the Wilkie Factors, the DRB voted two to one to **approve** the Applicant's request. Therefore, the awarded Service Characterization shall change to "Honorable," the Narrative Reason for separation shall remain Pattern of Misconduct, and the Reentry Code shall change to 3K. The DRB results were approved by the Presiding Officer on September 5, 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)