

SUMMARY: The Applicant was discharged on June 20, 2023 in accordance with Department of the Air Force Instruction 36-3211, *Military Separations*, with an Under Honorable Conditions (General) Service Characterization for Misconduct – (Drug Abuse). The Applicant appealed for an upgrade of their Service Characterization, a change to the Narrative Reason for separation, a change to the Reentry Code, and a change to the Separation Code.

The Applicant requested the Board be completed based on a Record Review. The Board was conducted on July 15, 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, 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 did not include any documented misconduct leading up to their discharge.

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 in all aspects of their discharge. They stated their discharge was inequitable because it was based on one isolated incident in 27 months of service with no other adverse actions. They acknowledged their discharge resulted from their decision to consume a cannabis-infused candy. Since their discharge, the Applicant stated they have resumed their position as an Emergency Medical Technician and graduated and joined the Behavioral Health Emergency Assistance Response Division.

The DRB found the Applicant's discharge inequitable. A thorough review of the Applicant's record showed no prior adverse actions, except for a single positive urinalysis for THC 9 at 18ng/mL, exceeding the DoD's 15ng/mL threshold. This misconduct resulted in an Article 15 and reduction in grade. Although the Applicant took responsibility and requested retention, it was denied. The DRB deemed the punishment disproportionate and the rehabilitation period insufficient. Consequently, they approved the upgrade of the Applicant's service characterization and the change to their narrative reason and reentry code.

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 inequitable. The DRB voted unanimously to **approve** the Applicant's request. Therefore, the awarded Service Characterization shall change to "Honorable," the Narrative Reason for separation shall change to Secretarial Authority, and the Reentry Code shall change to 3K. The DRB results were approved by the Presiding Officer on July 24, 2025.

Should the Applicant wish to appeal this decision, the Applicant 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)