

SUMMARY: The Applicant was discharged on June 9, 2023 in accordance with Department of the Air Force Instruction 36-3211, *Military Separations*, with an Under Honorable Conditions (General) Service Characterization for Misconduct (Minor Infractions). 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 included the following documented misconduct leading up to their discharge:

- Article 15 for failure to obey a lawful order
- Letter of Reprimand for being unaccounted for at nighttime accountability
- Letter of Counseling for possession of caffeine products which constitutes as a direct violation of the squadron's policy

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 contended their discharge was improper. They entered the Air Force under a Guaranteed Aptitude Area Enlistment Agreement but were later disqualified due to an Achilles injury. Following this disqualification, they requested an Entry Level Separation. The Applicant reported they were informed that an Article 15 was the only available discharge option. Subsequently, they received an Article 15 following a series of infractions. The Applicant also contends receiving an order they believed to be unlawful. Since their discharge, the Applicant has pursued a career in law enforcement, but their current discharge and narrative reason has been a hinderance.

The DRB determined the Applicant's discharge was inequitable. A review of the Applicant's administrative records confirmed they entered the Air Force under a Guaranteed Aptitude Area Enlistment Agreement. Although the Applicant completed initial training, they were not selected to continue in their chosen career field. Subsequently, the Applicant refused a direct order to report to training for a new career field and requested separation. The DRB found that the Applicant was not afforded separation opportunities in accordance with the terms of the Guaranteed Aptitude Area Enlistment Agreement. Considering the documented misconduct, the DRB deemed the punishment disproportionately harsh. As a result, the DRB

partially approved the Applicant's request, upgrading the service characterization but denying changes to the narrative reason for separation 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 two to one to *partially approve* the Applicant’s request. Therefore, the awarded Service Characterization shall change to “Honorable,” 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 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)