

SUMMARY: The Applicant was discharged on July 6, 2022 in accordance with Air Force Instruction 36-3208, Administrative Separation of Airmen, with an Honorable Service Characterization for Erroneous Entry. The Applicant appealed for 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 29, 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 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 asserted that their discharge from the military due to epilepsy was wrongful, testifying at the Board that they had no history of seizures or epilepsy before joining the Air Force and passed all medical screenings before enlistment. Their first seizure occurred during technical training, followed by additional episodes that led to a diagnosis of epilepsy. They emphasized that the condition developed during service and was not preexisting. The Applicant and their family members that testified as witnesses, described the emotional and financial toll of the separation, including the need for lifelong medication and brain surgery. The Applicant's Veteran Service Representative argued that the discharge process was flawed, citing a failure to comply with AFI 36 3208, Chapter 5.5.1.6, which requires a proper review before trainee discharge. The representative also contended that the wrong volume of DoDI 6130.03 was applied and that the Applicant should have been processed under Volume 2 (retention standards) and referred to the Disability Evaluation System. The representative asserted that the Applicant qualified for medical retirement under Title 10, Section 1201, and that the current discharge and Reentry Code 4C unfairly restricted access to VA benefits and employment opportunities.

The DRB found the Applicant's assertion that their epilepsy condition developed after enlistment and specifically during technical training to be credible. The numerous statements from the Applicant and their family indicated there was no prior history of seizures or related medical treatment. This was reinforced by our medical expert, who noted the absence of any previous medical history or symptoms, alongside initial MRI and CT scans that were unremarkable. The board members agree that, according to DoDI 6130.03 Volume 2, conditions such as epilepsy that arise during service fall under retention standards rather than accession standards. This inconsistency indicated that the Applicant should have been processed through the Disability Evaluation System and possibly referred to a Medical Evaluation Board rather than being discharged as an erroneous entry. The Applicant's honorable service and their significant medical condition further justified the request for relief. The Applicant and their supporters highlighted that, even with an honorable discharge, the

"erroneous entry" designation and Reentry Code 4C have hindered access to VA benefits and other post-service opportunities. The Board concluded that the discharge was inequitable and procedurally flawed, recommending an upgrade of the Reentry Code and a change in the narrative reason for separation to appropriately acknowledge the Applicant's service and allow for proper eligibility determination through the relevant medical channels.

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 improper. The DRB voted unanimously to **approve** the Applicant's request. Therefore, the awarded Service Characterization shall remain "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 August 5, 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://afrbportal.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)