

**SUMMARY:** The Applicant was discharged on April 17, 2023 in accordance with Department of the Air Force Instruction 36-3211, Military Separations, with an Uncharacterized / Entry Level Separation Service Characterization for Fraudulent Entry. The Applicant requested an upgrade of their Service Characterization, 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), with counsel, via video teleconference using Zoom on 23 July 2025. No 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, 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 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 submit a written statement of contentions but testified during their board that their current reentry code is unjust and misrepresents their ability to serve. Although the narrative reason cited is Fraudulent Entry, the Applicant asserts that they did not knowingly conceal a mental health condition, describing past diagnoses as situational and linked to temporary stressors such as childhood challenges, a car accident, and the COVID-19 pandemic, all of which they believed had resolved prior to enlistment, yet was not revealed on the entry paperwork. Their counsel contended that the reentry code is inaccurate and does not reflect the Applicant's true capabilities. The Applicant also claimed that their recruiter advised them to omit any prior counseling or mental health history during MEPS to avoid potential delays in enlistment, resulting in the omission of this information. They stated they had not used long-term medication, were cleared by a mental health provider before enlistment, and felt capable of serving honorably, pointing to a smooth basic military training experience with no signs of impairment. Furthermore, the Applicant expressed a strong desire to return to service as a paralegal after completing a degree in criminal justice, despite being denied reentry due to RE Code 2C, and hopes that the Board will consider granting them a second chance.

The DRB determined that the Applicant knowingly omitted prior mental health treatment and diagnoses on enlistment forms, citing recruiter advice not to disclose such information. However, the Board emphasized that MEPS forms must be completed truthfully, regardless of external influence. Medical records, including the Basic Assessment Screening (BAS), showed a five-year history of depressive symptoms that the Applicant failed to report. The Board also noted inconsistencies in the Applicant's testimony, such as claiming no issues during Basic Military Training despite documentation in the military records to the contrary.

The Applicant further deflected responsibility, suggesting their records were fabricated and minimizing the seriousness of their mental health history by labeling it as situational. This lack of accountability and candor was inconsistent with the standards expected of military members. Therefore, the Board fully supported 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 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 "Uncharacterized / Entry Level Separation," the Narrative Reason for separation shall remain Fraudulent Entry, and the Reentry Code shall remain 2C. The DRB results were approved by the Presiding Officer on August 5, 2025.

Should the Applicant wish to appeal this decision, they 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://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)