

SUMMARY: The Applicant was discharged on October 23, 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 a change to the Narrative Reason for separation, and a change to the Reentry Code.

The Applicant requested the Board be completed based on a Record Review. The Board was conducted on September 30, 2025. The Applicant was 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:

- Letter of Reprimand for using marijuana and openly admitting to being high to other Air Force members

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's counsel argued that discharge was a disproportionate response to the misconduct. They asserted the discharging authority failed to consider letters supporting the Applicant's retention on active duty. Furthermore, counsel emphasized that the incident was a one-time experimentation that the Applicant used to cope with their depression over the death of their grandmother, and that it only came to light because the Applicant self-reported, rather than through a positive urinalysis.

The Discharge Review Board (DRB) determined the discharge was equitable. Their decision was based on a substantiated investigation documented in the Applicant's administrative records, which revealed the wrongful use of marijuana. While the Applicant raised the five retention criteria, they did not sufficiently demonstrate compliance with the second and fourth criteria, making discharge mandatory. The record also indicated that the Commander had reviewed the Applicant's entire military record, considered their written response, and acknowledged the strong arguments for retention made by their immediate leadership and peers. The DRB determined the narrative reason for discharge aligned with the facts in the record. However, acknowledging that this drug abuse infraction was the Applicant's only adverse action, the Board agreed to modify the Applicant's Reentry code to allow for future re-enlistment opportunities.

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. The DRB voted unanimously to *partially approve* the Applicant's request. Therefore, the awarded Service Characterization shall remain Under Honorable Conditions (General), the Narrative Reason for separation shall remain Misconduct – (Drug Abuse), and the Reentry Code shall change to 3K. The DRB results were approved by the Presiding Officer on October 3, 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)