

**SUMMARY:** The Applicant was discharged on April 12, 2010 in accordance with Air Force Instruction 36-3208, *Administrative Separation of Airmen*, with an Under Other than Honorable Conditions Service Characterization for Misconduct (Civil Conviction). The Applicant appealed for 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 February 10, 2026. 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 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.

On behalf of the applicant, the counsel argued that the current service characterization is an inaccurate representation of the Applicant and that they should not be defined by alcohol abuse. The counsel contended that the Applicant was pushed to their emotional and physical breaking point. Furthermore, a witness testified that during the applicant's service, alcoholism was often not reported due to stigma and the potential for negative career consequences. Based on these points and referencing the Wilkie memorandum, the counsel believes the applicant should be granted an upgrade.

The DRB determined the Applicant's discharge for a civil conviction, for which they served 2.5 years, was proper and equitable. However, the Board considered several mitigating factors: the time since discharge, the Applicant's honesty and remorse, their commitment to sobriety, their support system, and their significant post-incident and post-service accomplishments, including earning both bachelor's and master's degrees. The Board also acknowledged the Air Force's culture regarding alcoholism during the Applicant's service. In accordance with the Wilkie memorandum, the DRB approved a change to the Applicant's service characterization but denied changes to the narrative reason and reentry code, as they were deemed to still accurately document the 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.

**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. However, based on the Wilkie memorandum, the DRB voted unanimously to *partially approve* the Applicant's request. Therefore, the awarded Service Characterization shall change to "Under Honorable Conditions (General)," the Narrative Reason for separation shall remain Misconduct (Civil Conviction), and the Reentry Code shall remain 2B. The DRB results were approved by the Presiding Officer on February 20, 2026.

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)