

SUMMARY: The Applicant was discharged on August 19, 2016 in accordance with Air Force Instruction 36-3208, *Administrative Separation of Airmen*, with an Under Honorable Conditions (General) Service Characterization for Misconduct (Minor Infractions). The Applicant appealed for an upgrade of their Service Characterization.

The Applicant requested the Board be completed based on a Record Review. The Board was conducted on November 24, 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 failing to follow a lawful order; made a false statement
- Vacation of punishment for making a false statement to an officer
- Letter of Reprimand for failing the fitness assessment with a score of 73
- Letter of Reprimand for making a false statement to medical care provider
- Letter of Reprimand for failing the fitness assessment with a score of 5.8
- Letter of Reprimand for failing the fitness assessment with a score of 29.33
- Letter of Counseling for failing to attend a mandatory medical appointment

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 is requesting a discharge upgrade, arguing that their current discharge characterization is unjust. While acknowledging fitness-related incidents that fell short of military standards, they request the Board consider their overall service record in relation to those infractions. The Applicant also stated that their commander and first sergeant initially intended to recommend an honorable discharge based on their entire career but later reversed that decision after a discharge hearing. Post-discharge, the Applicant has held multiple positions requiring a Secret security clearance, further demonstrating their reliability and suitability for continued service.

The DRB determined the discharge was inequitable. An administrative review showed the discharge stemmed from four fitness failures during the Applicant's enlistment. The Applicant submitted evidence from their administrative board, including a statement from their Commander asserting that an honorable service characterization was more suitable than a General discharge. Considering the facts, supporting documents, and Wilkie factors (time since discharge and the changed relative severity of the misconduct), the Board granted the Applicant's request to upgrade their Service Characterization.

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 inequitable. The DRB voted unanimously to **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 December 4, 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://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 Celmars Lane
Joint Base Andrews, MD 20762-6435

Attachment:
Examiner's Brief (Applicant Only)