

SUMMARY: The Applicant was discharged on October 27, 2022 in accordance with Air Force Instruction 36-3208, Administrative Separation of Airmen, with an Uncharacterized / Entry Level Separation Service Characterization for Failure to Meet Procurement Medical Fitness Standards. 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 14 August 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 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 requested an upgrade to their discharge and stated it should be granted due to a disability that directly resulted from military service, with no prior history of related issues before enlistment. The Applicant reported the condition during training but was advised to continue, which worsened the disability to the point of being unable to train or continue serving. The Applicant joined the Air Force with the intention of serving the country and pursuing an education, which would have been financially unattainable otherwise. However, the current character of service has rendered the Applicant ineligible for VA education benefits. An upgrade would enable the Applicant to attend school—an essential step, as the service-connected disability has significantly hindered the Applicant's ability to secure employment since separation.

The Applicant requested their uncharacterized Entry Level Separation be upgraded to Honorable. However, the 365-day eligibility for separation is applied to those Service Members who enlist on, or after, 23 December 2022. Therefore, upgrading this request would violate current policy in accordance with **DoDI 1332.14**, which states Airmen are in entry level status during the first **365** days of continuous active military service and if a separation action is initiated during this time, they will receive an entry level separation without service characterization. Therefore, the Applicant's request to upgrade to Honorable could not be approved.

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 Failure to Meet Procurement Medical Fitness Standards, and the Reentry Code shall remain 3A. The DRB results were approved by the Presiding Officer on August 18, 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)