

**SUMMARY:** The Applicant was discharged on August 14, 2020 in accordance with Air Force Instruction 36-3208, *Administrative Separation of Airmen*, with an Under Honorable Conditions (General) Service Characterization for Misconduct – (Serious Offense). 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 requested the Board be completed based on a Record Review. The Board was conducted on November 13, 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:

- Article 15 for bribery of an observer for the Base Drug Demand Reduction Program (DDRP)
- Letter of Reprimand for admitting they consumed THC to three NCOs

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 Counsel of behalf of the Applicant states the Applicant made a foolish mistake out of panic and desperation. Since discharge the Counsel stated the Applicant has worked hard to overcome their mistake and has established themselves as a leader in their community and someone for others to emulate. The Applicant acknowledged their mistakes and states they used THC to cope with the divorce they were going through at the time. In addition, the Counsel stated they Applicant previously applied to the Board but was denied.

The DRB determined the discharge was proper and equitable but granted the Applicant's request for an upgrade. A review of the record indicated the Applicant admitted to consuming THC and attempting to bribe the base Drug Demand Reduction Program (DDRP) observer, with the bribery forming the basis of the discharge. However, the Board found the Applicant demonstrated several favorable Wilkie factors, including candor, remorse, time since discharge, positive post-service reference letters, certifications, and licenses relevant to their business. The Board also noted that the Applicant had not previously applied for a review. While securing counsel is not a requirement nor a guarantee of an upgrade, the Board found that the totality of the circumstances warranted an upgrade to the Service Characterization, a change to the Narrative Reason for Separation, and a change to the Reentry Code.

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. However, based on the Wilkie Factors 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 change to Secretarial Authority, and the Reentry Code shall change to 3K. The DRB results were approved by the Presiding Officer on November 15, 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)