

**SUMMARY:** The Applicant was discharged on February 26, 2026 in accordance with Air Force Instruction 36-3208, Administrative Separation of Airmen, with an Uncharacterized / Entry Level Separation Service Characterization for Failed Medical/Physical Procurent Standards. 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 26 February 2026. 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 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 contends they did not enlist fraudulently and did not commit any misconduct. Their medical condition was not known when they entered service. They request a discharge characterization that is appropriate due to the blameless nature of the illness and the subsequent stigma associated with an Uncharacterized character of service. The military was not required to discharge them with an Uncharacterized discharge. Pursuant to the Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 1332.14, an Honorable service characterization is permitted under these circumstances, and he urges that such relief be given. An Honorable service characterization would allow them to pursue education and employment opportunities without the stigma associated with the current characterization. They intend to acquire an Engineering Degree and seek federal employment in some capacity to continue service in the capacity of a civilian. In addition, Under Secretary Wilkie's guidance comprising the "Wilkie Memo" encourages relief for veterans who deserve a second look at their discharge characterization. Also, the Applicant contends the DD Form 214, Block 25 Separation Authority, lists AFI 36-3208 as the authority for separation, but the appropriate regulation should have been the DAFI 36-3211, as this superseded AFI 36-3208 in June 2022.

The Applicant requested their uncharacterized Entry Level Separation be upgraded to Honorable. However, this 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.

Also, after being diagnosed with the medical condition, the applicant declined the opportunity for a medical accession waiver and in response to the discharge action, the Applicant waived their right to consult counsel, declined an Area Defense Counsel appointment, and waived their right to submit statements.

However, the DRB agrees with the applicant that the current Narrative Reason reflected on his DD Form 214 could carry an unintended stigma and does not totally reflect the reason for his discharge.

Finally, 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 *partially approve* the Applicant’s request. Therefore, the awarded Service Characterization shall remain “Uncharacterized / Entry Level Separation,” 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 March 4, 2026.

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 Celmers Lane  
Joint Base Andrews, MD 20762-6435

Attachment:  
Examiner’s Brief (Applicant Only)