

SUMMARY: The Applicant was discharged on February 19, 2014 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 and a change to the Reentry Code.

The Applicant appeared and testified before the Discharge Review Board (DRB), without counsel, via video teleconference using Zoom on 26 February 2026. Three 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 included the following documented misconduct leading up to their discharge:

- Multiple Letters of Counseling and Reprimand for failure to follow Air Force orders or regulations.
- Letter of Reprimand for unprofessional behavior at an official military event.
- Letter of Reprimand for reckless driving.

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 testified at his hearing that he was young and immature during the time of his misconduct and acknowledged he engaged in reckless behavior. He accepted full responsibility for his actions and displayed remorse for the misconduct that led to his discharge. The applicant further testified that he has had a successful post-service career at various agencies and is currently employed with a federal agency that supports customs and border control operations. The applicant had three currently serving military witnesses testify at his hearing. The witnesses are in command and/or senior leadership positions with various Air Force Reserve units. Each witness spoke very highly of the applicant and attested to his extreme professionalism, maturity, and expert skill set. The witnesses advocated on the applicant's behalf to have his discharge upgraded in order for him to be considered for a military position in Air Force Reserves.

A review of the applicant's record revealed he was discharged for minor disciplinary infractions at his first duty station. The misconduct involved failure to follow technical orders, uniform infractions, and unprofessional comments at an official military event. Furthermore, the applicant drove his motorcycle at an excessive amount of speed then posted comments about it on social media. After the motorcycle event the applicant's command pursued administrative discharge action against him for misconduct.

In making their decision regarding the applicant's request to upgrade his discharge, 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 concluded it is consistent with military custom and practice to honor sacrifices and achievements, to punish only to the extent necessary, to rehabilitate to the greatest extent possible, and to *favor second chances* in situations in which individuals have paid for their misdeeds. Additionally, the Board considered whether the applicant's misconduct may have been youthful indiscretion, his acceptance of responsibility, remorse, or atonement for the misconduct, and the length of time that had passed since his discharge. Finally, the Board concluded the applicant had strong support from multiple senior leaders to allow him to enlist in the Air Force Reserves and determined relief was warranted.

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 change to Secretarial Authority, and the Reentry Code shall change to 1J. The DRB results were approved by the Presiding Officer on February 27, 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>

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)