

**SUMMARY:** The Applicant was discharged on June 3, 2024 in accordance with Department of the Air Force Instruction 36-3211, Military Separations, with an Under Honorable Conditions (General) Service Characterization for Misconduct – (Drug Abuse). 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 02 March 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 Applicant's record of service included the following documented misconduct leading up to their discharge:

- Article 15 – Wrongful use of Marijuana
- Article 15 - Wrongful consumption of delta-8-tetrahydrocannabinol and use of Marijuana

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 states they were experiencing complex home and family related stress, coping with the distance and the various shift schedules. They tried to communicate issues with leadership, but the concerns were rarely met in a positive tone or actions, and they continually ran out of options in coping with stress and anger. The prior incidents regarding their conduct and substance misuse are a direct link to a challenging moment in their life.

Upon review of the Applicant's service record, the Board was not able to find any documentation regarding the discharge. Since the Board relies on the presumption of regularity, it concluded the discharge received by the Applicant was appropriate.

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 "Under Honorable Conditions (General)," the Narrative Reason for separation shall remain Misconduct – (Drug Abuse), and the Reentry Code shall remain 4H. The DRB results were approved by the Presiding Officer on March 3, 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)