

SUMMARY: The Veteran was discharged between October 1, 2021 and January 31, 2023.

In accordance with the Secretary of War memorandum “Restoring Honor to Service Members Separated Under the Coronavirus Disease 2019 Vaccine Mandate” dated December 6, 2025, the Discharge Review Board (DRB) identified the Veteran as having been discharged due to a decision to remain unvaccinated for COVID-19.

The DRB reviewed the Veteran’s DD-214 and personnel records to identify whether the Veteran was entitled to any changes, specifically an upgraded discharge characterization, a more favorable discharge narrative reason, or a reentry code permitting reentry into a military service, as required by the Secretary of War guidance.

DISCUSSION: The DRB is authorized by law to change the characterization of service, the narrative reason for discharge, and the reentry code if such changes are warranted.

The DRB reviewed the Veteran’s service record and determined that the Veteran’s decision to remain unvaccinated for COVID-19 was the sole reason for discharge. There was no other misconduct that would have resulted in an involuntary discharge. Further, the Veteran’s service met the standards of acceptable conduct and performance of duty.

The mandate to become vaccinated for COVID-19 has been rescinded. The Board therefore has “substantial doubt that the [Veteran] would have received the same discharge if relevant current policies and procedures had been available to the [Veteran] at the time of the discharge proceedings under consideration.” DoD Instruction 1332.28, Discharge Review Board (DRB) Procedures and Standards, E4.3.1.2. Accordingly, the DRB determined that the discharge was inequitable, and that the Veteran’s DD-214 must be corrected.

FINDING: The DRB voted unanimously to upgrade the Veteran’s discharge characterization, to change the discharge narrative reason, and to change the reentry code.

CONCLUSION: The awarded characterization of service shall change to “Honorable,” the narrative reason for separation shall change to “Secretarial Authority,” and the reentry code shall change to “1J.” The Air Force DRB results were approved by the President on February 27, 2026.