

SUMMARY: The Applicant was discharged on March 9, 2020 in accordance with Air Force Instruction 36-3208, *Administrative Separation of Airmen*, with an Under Other than Honorable Conditions Service Characterization for In Lieu of Trial by Court-Martial. 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 appeared and testified before the Discharge Review Board (DRB), with counsel, via video teleconference using Zoom on March 17, 2026. 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 did not include any documented misconduct leading up to their discharge.

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 on behalf of the Applicant believed based on the Report of Investigation and testimonies of witnesses at the time of the alleged incident that a court-martial would not have occurred due to several inconsistencies and he say/she say. In addition, they stated due to the lengthy investigation which caused the Applicant to be worn down mentally and the misunderstanding of the long-term effects caused the Applicant to accept the terms of administrative discharge in lieu of court martial. They stated the acceptance of discharge was not an admission of guilt and did not accurately reflect the character of the Applicant. Since discharge the Applicant has secured a job in construction, volunteered hosting events for abused children, and been active in their church.

The DRB determined the discharge was inequitable. A thorough review of the Applicant's records, investigation documents, and the testimony of the Applicant and witnesses presented many contradictory statements and facts in the occurrences of the events that led to the investigation of the Applicant. In addition, the legal review of the case stated there were significant litigation risks due to the inconsistencies. Although the Applicant requested an administrative discharge in lieu of trial it is not an admission of guilt. Therefore, the Board granted the Applicant's appeal for an upgrade of their 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.

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 2C. The DRB results were approved by the Presiding Officer on March 17, 2026.

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)