

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 18 September 2024

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20230014408

APPLICANT REQUESTS: An upgrade of his DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty), dated 12 May 1989, to show in:

- Block 24 (Character of Service) “honorable” in lieu of “uncharacterized”
- Block 26 (Separation Code) from NA to an appropriate Code

APPLICANT'S SUPPORTING DOCUMENT(S) CONSIDERED BY THE BOARD:

- DD Form 293 (Application for the Review of Discharge from the Armed Forces of the United States) in lieu of a DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- DD Form 214
- Memorandum from Defense Finance and Accounting Service, Indianapolis, IN
- Service Computation Date Report
- Acknowledgement Email from the Army Review Boards Agency
- Certificate for Completion of Training

FACTS:

1. The applicant did not file within the 3-year time frame provided in Title 10, U.S. Code, section 1552(b); however, the Army Board for Correction of Military Records (ABCMR) conducted a substantive review of this case and determined it is in the interest of justice to excuse the applicant's failure to timely file.
2. The applicant states the Office of Personnel Management will not accept her military service [toward her civilian retirement], because her military service is uncharacterized. Her retirement counselor advised her to apply to have her character of service upgraded to honorable service. She has paid the civilian retirement fund, in full, to receive retirement credit for her military service.
3. On 26 September 1988, the applicant enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserve (USAR) for 8 years. Orders 191-025, from the Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS), St.

Petersburgh, FL, confirms she was ordered to initial active duty for training (IADT) with a report date of 29 December 1988 to Fort Jackson, SC.

4. Her DA Form 2-1 (Personnel Qualification Record) confirms:

- She was assigned to Fort Jackson, SC, on 29 December 1988 and she was further assigned to Company C, 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Training Brigade for completion of basic training from 6 January to 2 March 1989
- She was assigned to Company D, 232nd Medical Battalion, Fort Sam Houston, TX, from 3 March to 12 May 1989 for completion of advanced individual training (AIT)

5. A Certificate from the Academy of Health Sciences, U.S. Army, Fort Sam Houston, TX, confirms the applicant completed the Medical Specialist Course [Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) 91A] as an Honor Graduate, on 12 May 1989.

6. Orders 79-115, from Headquarters, U.S. Army Fort Sam Houston, TX, ordered the applicant released from IADT, effective 12 May 1989, and return to her USAR unit.

7. Accordingly, on 12 May 1989, she was issued DD Form 214 showing she was released from IADT after having completed 4 months and 12 days of net active service. Her awards are listed as the Army Service Ribbon and Marksman Marksmanship Qualification Badge Rifle (M-16). His DD Form 214 also reflects in:

- Primary Specialty Number, Title, Years, and Months in Specialty, "91A10 Medical Specialist// Noting Follows//"
- Type of Separation: Relief from Active-Duty Training
- Character of Service: Uncharacterized
- Separation Authority, "MEPS Self-Terminating Order 191-025 [dated] 880927 Course 91A"
- Separation Code, NA
- Reenlistment Code, NA
- Narrative Reason for Separation, Completion of Period of ADT

8. AR 635-8 (Separation Processing and Documents) states/provides:

a. When a Reserve Component (RC) Soldier successfully completes initial active duty for training (IADT) the character of service is honorable unless directed otherwise by the separation approval authority.

b. The separation program designator (SPD) Code of MBK is the correct code for Soldiers voluntarily released from active duty (REFRAD) or transferred upon completion of required active service under the provisions of chapter 4, AR 635–200, Note 6.

c. Note 6 is to be used for Regular Army Soldiers eligible to reenlist or with a Declination of Continued Service Statement (DCSS) in force who are REFRAD on completion of enlistment and transferred to the RCs to complete military service obligations. Note 6 is also used for Army National Guard of the United States (ARNGUS) or USAR Soldiers who are REFRAD on completion of required active service or period for which ordered to active duty.

9. The applicant provided her DD Form 214 and other documents showing completion of IADT from 29 December 1988 to 12 May 1989 and award of an MOS. Her submissions were provided to the Board in their entirety.

10. In regard to the DD Form 214 she received upon completion of IADT:

a. Regulatory guidance stated an uncharacterized character of service was given to separating Soldiers in an entry-level status; Soldiers remained in an entry-level status until they had completed more than 180 days of continuous active service. However, the current separation regulation states RC Soldiers will receive an honorable character of service (unless directed otherwise by the separation approval authority) after they have completed IADT, been awarded an MOS, and the RC Soldier then reports for duty at a follow-on unit of assignment.

b. The available evidence shows she was ordered to IADT, she completed 4 months and 12 days of active service, and she was awarded an MOS; following separation, she returned to the USAR. It would be appropriate to consider her character of service as honorable, given current guidance, and in the interest of equity.

11. Army Regulation (AR) 635-5-1 (SPD Codes) states that SPD codes are three-character alphabetic combinations that identify reasons for and types of separation from active duty. The SPD code of "MBK" is the correct code to assign Soldiers separating under chapter 4, AR 635-200, by reason of completion of required active service.

### BOARD DISCUSSION:

After reviewing the application, all supporting documents, and the evidence found within the military record, the Board found that relief was warranted. The Board carefully considered the applicant's record of service, documents submitted in support of the petition and executed a comprehensive and standard review based on law, policy and regulation. The governing regulation provides that a separation will be described as an entry-level separation, with service uncharacterized, if the separation action is initiated while a Soldier is in entry-level status. Upon review of the applicant's petition and available military service, the Board determined the applicant was awarded military occupational specialty (MOS) 91A (Medical Specialist) and was released from active-

duty training (REFRAD). Regulatory guidance indicates that USAR and ARNG Soldiers are granted an honorable discharge if they complete their active-duty training, receive an MOS and are returned to their units. This is the applicant's case. Therefore, the Board agreed that the applicant's DD Form 214 should be re-issued to reflect her discharge as honorable for this term of service and her SDP code to show MBK.

BOARD VOTE:

Mbr 1      Mbr 2      Mbr 3

█	█	█	GRANT FULL RELIEF
:	:	:	GRANT PARTIAL RELIEF
:	:	:	GRANT FORMAL HEARING
:	:	:	DENY APPLICATION

BOARD DETERMINATION/RECOMMENDATION:

The Board determined the evidence presented is sufficient to warrant a recommendation for relief. As a result, the Board recommends that all Department of the Army records of the individual concerned be corrected by re-issuing the applicant a DD Form 214 showing in

- Block 24 (Character of Service) Honorable
- Block 26 (Separation Code) MBK

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I certify that herein is recorded the true and complete record of the proceedings of the Army Board for Correction of Military Records in this case.

REFERENCES:

1. Title 10, U.S. Code, section 1552(b), provides that applications for correction of military records must be filed within 3 years after discovery of the alleged error or injustice. This provision of law also allows the ABCMR to excuse an applicant's failure to timely file within the 3-year statute of limitations if the ABCMR determines it would be in the interest of justice to do so.

2. AR 635-8 currently in effect prescribes the transition processing function of the military personnel system. The regulation contains guidance stating for block 24 (Characterization of Service) the correct entry is vital since it affects a Soldier's eligibility for post-service benefits. Characterization or description of service is determined by directive authorizing separation; when a RC Soldier successfully completes IADT the character of service is honorable unless directed otherwise by the separation approval authority.

3. AR 635-8 also states/provides:

b. The separation program designator (SPD) Code MBK is the correct code for Soldiers voluntarily released from active duty (REFRAD) or transferred upon completion of required active service under the provisions of chapter 4, AR 635-200, Note 6.

c. Note 6 is to be used for RA Soldiers eligible to reenlist or with a "DCSS" in force who are REFRAD on completion of enlistment and transferred to the RCs to complete military service obligations. Note 6 is also used for Army National Guard of the United States (ARNGUS) or USAR Soldiers who are REFRAD on completion of required active service or period for which ordered to active duty.

4. AR 635-5-1 states that SPD codes are three-character alphabetic combinations that identify reasons for and types of separation from active duty. The SPD code of "MBK" is the correct code for Soldiers separating under chapter 4, AR 635-200, by reason of completion of required active service.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//