

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 27 February 2025

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240006129

APPLICANT REQUESTS: correction of the narrative reason for separation to read service-connected disabilities on her DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) for the period ending 14 April 1990.

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- DD Form 214
- Chronological Statement of Retirement Points
- Orders 124-6 Transfer Orders
- Orders D-10-777458 Discharge from the U.S. Army Reserve (USAR)
- Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Rating Decision

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 she has a service-connected disability of 90 percent. She was experiencing significant personal and family problems and was suffering silently, mentally, and physically from a service-connected sexual assault. Because of these factors, she was only able to complete two of her six years of USAR service. Even though she was discharged over 35 years ago, she only recently learned that she could apply for a records correction.
3. The applicant provides a VA Rating decision, 2 April 2024, which shows she has service connection for post-traumatic stress disorder with major depressive disorder with an evaluation of 70 percent, service connection for degenerative arthritis with degenerative disc disease with an evaluation of 20 percent, and service connection for radiculopathy with an evaluation of 40 percent.

4. The applicant's service record shows:

a. On 12 October 1989, she enlisted in the USAR. On the same day she received orders ordering her to initial active duty training with a reporting date of 22 November 1989 and an advanced individual training reporting date of 9 February 1990. On 28 February 1990 she received the military occupational specialty of 94B (Food Service Specialist) with an uncharacterized character of service discharge.

b. Her DD Form 214 shows she was released from active duty to her USAR unit on 14 April 1990. The type of separation was relief from initial active duty training and the narrative reason for separation was expiration term of service.

c. Her service records contains letters of instruction - unexcused absence, which show the number of scheduled unit training assemblies she was absent from. On or about 31 October 1991, she received a memorandum telling her she had accumulated nine unexcused absences within a one year period, which was unsatisfactory participation. On 25 November 1991, she was assigned to USAR Control Group (Annual Training) due to her unsatisfactory participation. On 15 October 1997, she was honorably discharged from the USAR.

d. Her service record contains medical documents, which will be reviewed by the Army Review Boards Agency medical section and are available for the Board's review.

4. On 14 January 2025, the Criminal Investigation Division responded to a request for information stating there were no sexual assault investigations pertaining to the applicant in their systems.

5. Based on the applicant's receiving service connection disability from the VA, the Army Review Boards Agency Medical Section provided a medical review for the Board's consideration.

6. MEDICAL REVIEW:

a. Background: The applicant is applying to the ABCMR requesting consideration of correction of the narrative reason for separation to read "service connected disabilities" on her DD Form 214 for the period ending 14 April 1990. She contends she experienced undiagnosed PTSD and sexual harassment/assault (MST) that mitigates her discharge.

b. The specific facts and circumstances of the case can be found in the ABCMR Record of Proceedings (ROP). Pertinent to this advisory are the following:

- The applicant enlisted into the U.S. Army Reserve on 12 October 1989 and was ordered to active duty training on 22 November 1989 and to AIT on 9 February 1990.
- Her DD Form 214 shows she was released from active duty on 14 April 1990 with an Uncharacterized discharge and narrative reason as “relief from initial active duty training.” She had 4 months and 23 days of net active service.
- On or about 31 October 1991, she received a memorandum telling her she had accumulated nine unexcused absences within a one year period, which was unsatisfactory participation. On 25 November 1991, she was assigned to USAR Control Group (Annual Training) due to her unsatisfactory participation. On 15 October 1997, she was honorably discharged from the USAR.

c. Review of Available Records: The Army Review Board Agency (ARBA) Behavioral Health Advisor reviewed the supporting documents contained in the applicant’s file. The applicant asserts she experienced significant personal and family problems and suffered silently from a service-connected sexual assault, which resulted in completing only two of her six years of service. She is requesting relief, including “corrected DD 214, healthcare, and housing.” A VA Rating Decision letter dated 2 April 2024 showed that the applicant is 70% service connected for PTSD, Major Depressive Disorder, Cannabis Use Disorder, and Gambling Disorder. The application included 73 pages of medical records/documents (some were redundant) from sick call and the ER, and at least ten of those were related to gynecological issues or problems. There was insufficient evidence that the applicant was diagnosed with PTSD or another psychiatric condition while on active service.

d. The Joint Legacy Viewer (JLV), which contains medical and mental health records for both DoD and VA, was reviewed and showed the applicant initiated mental health treatment through the VA on 28 January 2025 and reported a long history of treatment for anxiety and depression. She indicated a history of MST and diagnoses of PTSD, Depression, and Anxiety, and a community care (CC) referral was entered for psychiatry services. At follow up on 5 February 2025, it was noted that she declined psychotherapy services and had an appointment scheduled with a CC psychiatrist (records not obtainable). Notably, JLV shows that the applicant is 100% service connected for PTSD and several physical health conditions.

e. Initial (dated 31 January 2024) and Review (dated 13 May 2024) PTSD Disability Benefits Questionnaires (DBQ) were obtained, and both showed diagnoses of PTSD, Major Depressive Disorder, Cannabis Abuse, and Gambling Disorder (Review DBQ only). The DBQs showed that the applicant has not worked since 2014 due to “mental health issues” and is on SSDI. She reported having never been hospitalized but noted participation in an intensive outpatient treatment (IOP) for anxiety in 2012. She endorsed the requisite number and severity of symptoms to warrant a diagnosis of PTSD, and her other mental health diagnoses were considered secondary to this

condition. The applicant discussed an MST experience in detail that involved sexual assault. She also reported that she “almost shot her eye out” during a training exercise. The applicant endorsed both social and occupational impairment as a result of her mental health conditions.

f. Based on the available information, it is the opinion of the Agency Behavioral Health Advisor that there is insufficient evidence to support that the applicant had a mental health condition while on active service. However, there is potentially evidence of a history of MST through DoD medical documentation of frequent healthcare visits associated with gynecological problems and her unsatisfactory participation/unexcused absences from drill. Nonetheless, there is insufficient evidence, beyond self-report, that the applicant was experiencing a mental health condition that would have warranted a referral to the Disability Evaluation System.

g. Kurta Questions:

(1) Did the applicant have a condition or experience that may excuse or mitigate the discharge? Yes. The applicant asserts she had an undiagnosed mental health condition, including PTSD, while on active service. While DoD medical records do not show any indication of any mental health symptoms, these records do show that the applicant repeatedly and frequently reported gynecological problems while in basic training and AIT. VA records from 2024 show she was diagnosed with and service connected for PTSD, Major Depressive Disorder, Cannabis Use Disorder, and Gambling Disorder with all conditions secondary to her report of sexual assault while on active service.

(2) Did the condition exist or experience occur during military service? Yes, the applicant asserts she was experiencing a mental health condition while on active service.

(3) Does the condition or experience actually excuse or mitigate the discharge? No. A review of military medical and mental health records revealed no documentation of any mental health condition(s) while on active service, but there are DoD medical records that document several complaints of gynecological and physical health problems. VA records from 2024 show she is service connected for PTSD secondary to MST. The applicant’s misconduct related to unsatisfactory performance associated with multiple unexcused absences can be a natural sequela to experiencing traumatic or stressful events. Additionally, frequent utilization of healthcare services and physical complaints also has an association to MST. While there is insufficient evidence, beyond self-report, that the applicant was experiencing a mental health condition on active service, the applicant asserts a fully mitigating BH experience, MST. As there is an association between MST and avoidant behavior, such as missing drill, there is a nexus between her experience of MST and her pattern of misconduct.

h. The applicant contends she had an MST and was experiencing a mental health condition that warrants a change in the narrative reason for separation (and presumptive characterization of service), and per Liberal Consideration her assertion of MST alone is sufficient for the board's consideration.

BOARD DISCUSSION:

After reviewing the application, all supporting documents, and the evidence found within the military record, the Board found that relief was not warranted. The Board carefully considered the applicant's record of service, documents submitted in support of the petition and executed a comprehensive review based on law, policy and regulation.

a. The Board concurs with the medical advisor's assessment that there is insufficient evidence—beyond the applicant's self-reported symptoms—to support the existence of a mental health condition at the time of separation that would have warranted referral to the DES. The available documentation does not substantiate a diagnosis or clinical findings of a condition severe enough to interfere with the applicant's ability to perform military duties or to meet the criteria for medical evaluation under the DES.

b. The Board recognizes the importance of mental health in evaluating service-related conditions but must rely on objective medical evidence and established procedures. In this case, the record does not support a change to the narrative reason for separation. Accordingly, the Board finds no error or injustice in the original separation determination and recommends denial of the requested relief.

BOARD VOTE:

Mbr 1    Mbr 2    Mbr 3

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

BOARD DETERMINATION/RECOMMENDATION:

The evidence presented does not demonstrate the existence of a probable error or injustice. Therefore, the Board determined the overall merits of this case are insufficient as a basis for correction of the records of the individual concerned.



**X** //SIGNED//

CHAIRPERSON  
Signed by:

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. Army Regulation 635-5 (Personnel Separation Separation Documents) prescribes the separation documents that must be prepared for Soldiers on retirement, discharge, release from active duty service, or control of the Active Army. It states when completing the DD Form 214 in block 28 (Narrative Reason for Separation) This is based on regulatory or other authority and can be checked against the cross reference in Army Regulation 635-5-1.

3. Army Regulation 635-5-1 (Personnel Separations - Separation Program Designators (SPD)) prescribes the specific authorities (regulatory, statutory, or other directives) the reasons for the separation of members from active military service, and the separation program designators to be used for these stated reasons. It shows:

- Personality Disorder – JFX (JMB)
- Physical Disability with severance pay – JFL
- Physical Disability without severance pay – JFR
- Disability not in line of duty – JFP
- Expiration Term of Service - LBK

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//