

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 22 April 2025

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240010010

APPLICANT REQUESTS: in effect, a medical discharge.

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- Self-Authored Statement
- DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty)

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, in effect, while attending basic combat training she was sent to sick call. Her blood pressure was 280/210 and she was summarily discharged. She felt fine and does not understand why she never saw a doctor in a hospital with a blood pressure that high. She feels like she had her career goals snatched from under her and would like to know what really happened. She had signed her children over to become a Soldier and serve her country, the next thing she knew, she was discharged.
3. The applicant enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserve on 23 May 1980. She entered active duty for training on 22 July 1980.
4. Her record contains:
 - a. Standard Form 513 (Clinical Record – Consultation Sheet), 29 July 1980, shows she was examined for intermittent swelling of her hands and feet (edema), vertigo and elevated blood pressure.
 - b. DA Form 4707 (Entrance Physical Standards Board (EPSBD) Proceedings), 1 August 1980, shows the applicant was referred to the Internal Medicine Clinic on

29 July 1980, with complaint of swelling of hands and feet, and vertigo prior to service and since medication, edema showed times two. She was seen for several elevated blood pressures, with systolic greater than 140mm. Diagnosed with hypertension which is medically unfitting for enlistment in accordance with Army Regulation 40-501 (Standards of Medical Fitness), paragraph 2-19b. PULHES 311111, no strenuous physical activity. The findings were approved on 1 August 1980, the same date the applicant concurred with the proceedings and requested to be discharged from the Army without delay. The applicant did not indicate her disagreement, nor did she disagree with the proceedings because her condition was not disqualifying on entry and was aggravated by service. On 1 August 1980, the applicant's commander approved the recommended discharge.

5. On 8 August 1980, she was honorably discharged in accordance with Army Regulation 635-200 (Personnel Separations – Enlisted Personnel), paragraph 5-7c(2), discharge of personnel who did not meet procurement medical fitness standards. She completed 17 days net active service this period.

6. The acronym "PULHES" describes the six physical factors used in the profiling system to classify medical readiness: "P" (Physical capacity or stamina), "U" (Upper extremities), "L" (Lower extremities), "H" (Hearing), "E" (Eyes), and "S" (Psychiatric). Physical profile ratings are permanent (P) or temporary (T). A service member's level of functioning under each factor is represented by numerical designations: 1 indicates a high-level of fitness, 2 indicates some activity limitations are warranted, 3 reflects significant limitations, and 4 reflects one or more medical conditions of such a severity that performance of military duties must be drastically limited.

7. The Army rates only conditions determined to be physically unfitting at the time of discharge, which disqualify the Soldier from further military service. The Army disability rating is to compensate the individual for the loss of a military career. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) does not have authority or responsibility for determining physical fitness for military service. The VA may compensate the individual for loss of civilian employability.

8. Title 38, U.S. Code, sections 1110 and 1131, permits the VA to award compensation for medical conditions incurred in or aggravated by active military service. The VA, however, is not empowered by law to determine medical unfitness for further military service. The VA, in accordance with its own policies and regulations, awards compensation solely on the basis that a medical condition exists and that said medical condition reduces or impairs the social or industrial adaptability of the individual concerned. Consequently, due to the two concepts involved, an individual may have a medical condition that is not considered medically unfitting for military service at the time of processing for separation, discharge, or retirement, but that same condition may

be sufficient to qualify the individual for VA benefits based on an evaluation by that agency.

9. MEDICAL REVIEW:

a. The Army Review Boards Agency (ARBA) Medical Advisor was asked to review this case. Documentation reviewed included the applicant's ABCMR application and accompanying documentation, the military electronic medical record (AHLTA), the VA electronic medical record (JLV), the electronic Physical Evaluation Board (ePEB), the Medical Electronic Data Care History and Readiness Tracking (MEDCHART) application, and/or the Interactive Personnel Electronic Records Management System (iPERMS). The ARBA Medical Advisor made the following findings and recommendations:

b. The applicant is applying to the ABCMR requesting in essence a referral to the Disability Evaluation System (DES).

c. The Record of Proceedings details the applicant's military service and the circumstances of the case. Her DD 214 shows she entered the regular Army on 22 July 1980 and was honorably discharged on 8 August 1980 under the separation authority provided by paragraph 5-7c(2) of AR 635-200, Personnel Separations – Enlisted Personnel (1 March 1978): Separation of personnel who did not meet procurement medical fitness standards.

d. The applicant's pre-entrance Report of Medical History and accompanying Report of Medical History shows the applicant was in good health without any significant medical history or conditions.

e. The applicant was referred to an Entrance Physical Standards Board (EPSBD) for pre-existing hypertension. EPSBDs are convened IAW paragraph 7-12 of AR 40-400, Patient Administration. This process is for enlisted Soldiers who within their first 6 months of active service are found to have a preexisting condition which does not meet the enlistment standard in chapter 2 of AR 40-501 (Standards of Medical Fitness), but does meet the chapter 3 retention standard of the same regulation. The fourth criterion for this process is that the preexisting condition was not permanently aggravated by their military service.

f. From the 1 August 1980, DA Form 4707:

"History Of Condition Existing Prior To Service: Patient is a 22-year-old black female with hypertension

Subjective Findings:

Patient was referred to Internal Medicine Clinic on 29 JUL 80, with complaint of swelling of hands and feet and vertigo prior to service and since medication, edema showed time 2. She was seen for several elevated blood pressures, with the systolic greater than 140 mm [abnormally high]

Objective Findings: Physical examination revealed weight 130 lbs., [a series of blood pressures ranged from 120-148 / 80-98, the majority being greater than 140/90 or abnormally high.]

Diagnosis: Hypertension

g. Medically unfit for enlistment IAW Par 2-19b of AR 40-501)

h. On 1 August 1980, the board determined her medical condition had existed prior to service, had not been permanently aggravated by military service, did not meet one or more medical enlistment/induction standards, and was not compatible with continued military service. The applicant agreed with the board's findings on 1 August 1980, marking and initialing the election "I concur with these proceedings and request to be discharged from the US Army without delay."

i. It is the opinion of the ARBA Medical Advisor that a referral of her case to the Disability Evaluation System is not warranted.

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. The Board reviewed and concurred with the medical advisor's review and determined that referral to the Disability Evaluation System is not warranted based on her medical condition existing prior to service. The applicant was discharged for failure to meet medical fitness standards.

BOARD VOTE:

Mbr 1 Mbr 2 Mbr 3

:	:	:	GRANT FULL RELIEF
:	:	:	GRANT PARTIAL RELIEF
:	:	:	GRANT FORMAL HEARING
█	█	█	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.

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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. Army Regulation 635-200, then in effect, set forth the basic authority for separation of enlisted personnel. Paragraph 5-7 specifically provided that Soldiers who were not medically qualified under procurement medical fitness standards when accepted for enlistment, or who became medically disqualified under these standards prior to entry on active duty, active duty for training, or initial entry training will be separated. A medical proceeding, regardless of the date completed, must establish that a medical condition was identified by appropriate medical authority within six months of the Soldier's initial entrance on active duty, that the condition would have permanently or temporarily disqualified the Soldier for entry into the military service had it been detected at the time, and the medical condition does not disqualify the Soldier from retention in the service under the provisions of Army Regulation 40-501, chapter 3. The characterization of service for Soldiers separated under this provision will normally be honorable but will be uncharacterized if the Soldier has not completed more than 180 days of creditable continuous active duty prior to the initiation of separation action.
3. The Army rates only conditions determined to be physically unfitting at the time of discharge, which disqualify the Soldier from further military service. The Army disability rating is to compensate the individual for the loss of a military career. The VA does not have authority or responsibility for determining physical fitness for military service. The VA may compensate the individual for loss of civilian employability.
4. Title 38, U.S. Code, sections 1110 and 1131, permits the VA to award compensation for medical conditions incurred in or aggravated by active military service. The VA, however, is not empowered by law to determine medical unfitness for further military service. The VA, in accordance with its own policies and regulations, awards compensation solely on the basis that a medical condition exists and that said medical condition reduces or impairs the social or industrial adaptability of the individual concerned. Consequently, due to the two concepts involved, an individual may have a medical condition that is not considered medically unfitting for military service at the time of processing for separation, discharge, or retirement, but that same condition may be sufficient to qualify the individual for VA benefits based on an evaluation by that agency.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//