

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 23 May 2025

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240011903

APPLICANT REQUESTS: correction of her DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) for the period ending 30 December 1986, to show she was separated by reason of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in lieu of personality disorder.

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

DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record under the Provisions of Title 10, U.S. Code, Section 1552)

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 had a miscarriage while serving on active duty, and as a result requests her narrative reason be changed to PTSD.
3. On her DD Form 149, the applicant indicates that PTSD is related to her request, as a contributing and mitigating factor in the circumstances that resulted in her separation.
4. The applicant enlisted in the Regular Army on 3 March 1986 in the rank/grade of private first class/E-3.
5. Chief, Community Mental Health Service, U.S. Army Medical Department Activity Panama memorandum (Medical Statement on (Applicant), 47th Military Intelligence Group, Corozal, Panama), 29 October 1986 noted:
 - a. She has been followed at the mental health service subsequent to her miscarriage on 12 October 1986. She was also experiencing some despondency over her financial situation and her husband has been unable to find consistent employment in Panama.

b. It was noted she desires to be discharged from the service so she can pursue a college education and have children. She is unhappy in the service and does not feel she can be an effective soldier.

c. She was diagnosed with:

- Axis I: Adjustment Disorder with Depressed Mood
- Axis II: Immature Personality Traits
- Axis IV: Psychosocial Stressors: recent miscarriage and financial problems.
Severity: 5-Severe
- Axis V: Highest Level of Adaptive Functioning Past Year: 2-Very good

d. The medical professional recommended she be given consideration for an administrative separation from the service if deemed by her command. It was further noted that separation from the service would likely alleviate the adjustment problem with she was experiencing.

6. The Chaplain, 193d Infantry Brigade, Fort Clayton, Panama memorandum (Recommendation for Hardship Discharge), dated 4 November 1986, noted he counseled her and her husband on several occasions regarding her recent miscarriage. He noted she had incidences of adjustment problems at work and had high levels of stress. It was his opinion for the good order of the Army that her request for a chapter 6, hardship discharge be favorably considered.

7. In a 26 November 1986 sworn Affidavit, certified by counsel, she requested a chapter 6, hardship discharge. She noted her mental distress as a result of her miscarriage and her inability to perform or fulfil her military obligation.

8. On 15 December 1986, her immediate commander notified her of his intent to initiate separation action against her under the provisions of Army Regulation 635-200 (Personnel Separation – Enlisted Personnel), paragraph 5-13, by reason of a personality disorder. Her commander cited the clinical evaluation and diagnosis and recommended she receive an honorable discharge.

9. She acknowledged receipt of his proposed separation notification on 15 December 1986. She consulted with counsel and was advised of the basis for the contemplated action to separate her for a personality disorder under the provisions of Army Regulation 635-200, paragraph 5-13. She waived her right to submit a statement in her own behalf.

10. Her commander initiated separation action against her on 16 December 1986, under the provisions of Army Regulation 635-200, paragraph 5-13 due to personality disorder.

11. The separation authority approved the proposed separation action on 16 December 1986, in accordance with Army Regulation 635-200, paragraph 5-13, and directed that her service be characterized as honorable.

12. The applicant was honorably discharged on 30 December 1986. The DD Form 214 she was issued shows she completed 9 months and 28 days of net active service. Her DD Form 214 further shows in:

- item 25 (Separation Authority) – Army Regulation 625-200, paragraph 5-13
- item 26 (Separation Code) – "JFX"
- item 28 (Narrative Reason for Separation) – "Personality Disorder"

BOARD DISCUSSION:

After reviewing the application and all supporting documents, the Board determined partial relief was warranted. The applicant's contentions, the military record, and regulatory guidance were carefully considered. Based upon the applicant's requested change not an appropriate narrative reason for separation, the Board denied the requested relief. However, based upon the potential prejudice one may face from others when presenting a DD Form 214 with the current narrative reason for separation, the Board concluded there was sufficient evidence to change the applicant's narrative reason for separation to reflect Condition, Not a Disability.

BOARD VOTE:

Mbr 1 Mbr 2 Mbr 3

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

BOARD DETERMINATION/RECOMMENDATION:

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

- Characterization of Service: No change
- Separation Authority: No change
- Separation Code: JFV
- Reentry Code: No change
- Narrative Reason for Separation: Condition, Not a Disability

2. The Board further determined the evidence presented is insufficient to warrant a portion of the requested relief. As a result, the Board recommends denial of so much of the application that pertains to changing the narrative reason for separation to reflect PTSD.

//SIGNED//

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CHAIRPERSON

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 15-185 (Army Board for Correction of Military Records) prescribes the policies and procedures for correction of military records by the Secretary of the Army acting through the ABCMR. The ABCMR begins its consideration of each case with the presumption of administrative regularity. The applicant has the burden of proving an error or injustice by a preponderance of the evidence.

3. Section 1556 of Title 10, United States Code, requires the Secretary of the Army to ensure that an applicant seeking corrective action by the Army Review Boards Agency (ARBA) be provided with a copy of any correspondence and communications (including summaries of verbal communications) to or from the Agency with anyone outside the Agency that directly pertains to or has material effect on the applicant's case, except as authorized by statute. ARBA medical advisory opinions and reviews are authored by ARBA civilian and military medical and behavioral health professionals and are therefore internal agency work product. Accordingly, ARBA does not routinely provide copies of ARBA Medical Office recommendations, opinions (including advisory opinions), and reviews to Army Board for Correction of Military Records applicants (and/or their counsel) prior to adjudication.

4. Army Regulation 635-200 sets policies, standards, and procedures to ensure the readiness and competency of the force while providing for the orderly administrative separation of enlisted members for a variety of reasons.

a. Chapter 5-13 provides the criteria for discharge because of a personality disorder. It provides that a Soldier may be separated for personality disorders not amounting to disability under Army Regulation 635-40 (Physical Evaluation for Retention, Retirement, or Separation) which interfere with assignment to or performance of duty.

b. The diagnosis of a personality disorder must be established by a physician trained in psychiatry and psychiatric diagnosis. Separation because of a personality disorder is authorized only if the diagnosis concludes that the disorder is so severe that the Soldier's ability to function effectively in the military environment is significantly impaired.

5. Army Regulation 635-5-1 (Separation Program Designator (SPD) Codes) states that the SPD codes are three-character alphabetic combinations, which identify reasons for, and types of separation from active duty. The SPD code of "JFX" is the correct code for members separating under the provisions of Army Regulation 635-200, paragraph 5-13 by reason of Personality Disorder.

6. The SPD/RE Code Cross Reference Table provides instructions for determining the RE code for Active Army and Reserve Component Soldiers. This cross reference table shows the SPD code and corresponding RE code. The SPD code of "JFX" has a corresponding RE code of 3.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//