

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 2 September 2025

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20250000937

APPLICANT REQUESTS: an upgrade of his uncharacterized discharge to a discharge under honorable conditions (general).

APPLICANT'S SUPPORTING DOCUMENT CONSIDERED BY THE BOARD: DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record).

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, unbeknownst to him, he had a preexisting injury during basic combat training. He claims he "jumped the gun" and received a general discharge instead of waiting for a medical discharge.
3. The applicant enlisted in the Regular Army on 31 October 2001.
4. The complete facts and circumstances surrounding the applicant's discharge are not available for review; however, evidence shows the applicant was discharged on 11 April 2002, under Army Regulation 635-200 (Personnel Separations – Enlisted Personnel), chapter 11, with an uncharacterized discharge. The DD Form 214 he was issued confirms he was separated for entry level performance and conduct. He completed 4 months and 11 days of net active military service during this period with time lost from 13 February to 14 March 2002.
5. On 11 July 2025, a member of the Army Review Boards Agency, Case Management Division contacted the applicant to retrieve medical records. The same day, the applicant replied that the doctor who diagnosed him with an injury was no longer practicing.
6. Army Regulation 15-185 prescribes the policies and procedures for correction of military records by the Secretary of the Army, acting through the ABCMR. The ABCMR

considers individual applications that are properly brought before it. The ABCMR will decide cases on the evidence of record. It is not an investigative body. 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.

BOARD DISCUSSION:

1. 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 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. The applicant did not complete training and was released from active duty for entry level performance and conduct. The Board noted the applicant's injury existed prior to service. The Board determined his DD Form 214 properly shows the appropriate characterization of service as uncharacterized.

2. An uncharacterized discharge is not meant to be a negative reflection of a Soldier's military service. It merely means the Soldier has not been in the Army long enough for his or her character of service to be rated as honorable or otherwise. As a result, there is no basis for granting the applicant's request.

BOARD VOTE:

<u>Mbr 1</u>	<u>Mbr 2</u>	<u>Mbr 3</u>	
:	:	:	GRANT FULL RELIEF
:	:	:	GRANT PARTIAL RELIEF
:	:	:	GRANT FORMAL HEARING
XXX	XXX	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//

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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 635-200 sets forth the basic authority for the separation of enlisted personnel.

a. An honorable discharge is a separation with honor and entitles the recipient to benefits provided by law. The honorable characterization is appropriate when the quality of the member's service generally has met the standards of acceptable conduct and performance of duty for Army personnel or is otherwise so meritorious that any other characterization would be clearly inappropriate.

b. Paragraph 3-7b states that a general discharge is a separation from the Army under honorable conditions. When authorized, it is issued to a Soldier whose military record is satisfactory but not sufficiently meritorious to warrant an honorable discharge.

c. Paragraph 3-9 (Uncharacterized separations), Entry-level separation. A separation will be described as entry-level with service uncharacterized if processing is initiated while a Soldier is in entry-level status, except when -

(1) Characterization under other than honorable conditions is authorized under the reason for separation and is warranted by the circumstances of the case.

(2) HQDA (AHRC-EPR-F), on a case-by-case basis, determines that characterization of service as honorable is clearly warranted by the presence of unusual circumstances involving personal conduct and performance of duty. This characterization is authorized when the Soldier is separated by reason of selected changes in service obligation, convenience of the Government, and Secretarial plenary authority.

(3) The Soldier has less than 181 days of continuous active military service, has completed Initial Entry Training, has been awarded a military occupational specialty, and has reported for duty at a follow-on unit of assignment (see para 11-3c).

d. The glossary provides the definition for entry-level status. For Regular Army Soldiers, entry-level status is the first 180 days of continuous active duty (AD) or the first 180 days of continuous AD following a break of more than 92 days of active military service.

e. Chapter 11 of the regulation provides for the separation of personnel in entry-level status on the grounds of unsatisfactory performance and/or unsatisfactory conduct as evidenced by:

- inability
- lack of reasonable effort
- failure to adapt to the military environment
- minor disciplinary infractions

3. The separation policy applies to Soldiers who could not meet the minimum standards prescribed for successful completion of training. Separation under this chapter applies to Soldiers who were in an entry-level status (i.e., had completed no more than 180 days of continuous active service before the date of the initiation of separation action). An uncharacterized description of service is required for separation under this chapter. The following conditions are illustrations of conduct and/or performance that disqualify Soldiers for retention:

- Cannot or will not adapt socially or emotionally to military life
- Cannot meet the minimum standards prescribed for successful completion of training because of lack of aptitude, ability, motivation, or self-discipline
- Have demonstrated character and behavior characteristics not compatible with satisfactory continued service
- Have failed to respond to counseling

4. Army Regulation 15-185 prescribes the policies and procedures for correction of military records by the Secretary of the Army, acting through the ABCMR. The ABCMR considers individual applications that are properly brought before it. The ABCMR will decide cases on the evidence of record. It is not an investigative body. 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.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//