

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 2 September 2025

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20250001337

APPLICANT REQUESTS: correction of his DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) to show his character of service as “honorable” vice “uncharacterized”.

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

- DD Form 293 (Application for the Review of Discharge from the Armed Forces of the U.S.)
- DD Form 4/1 (Enlistment/Reenlistment Document Armed Forces of the U.S.)
- 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 the Department of Veterans Affairs system shows his character of service as honorable. His DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) should be updated.
3. A review of the applicant's service record shows:
 - a. He enlisted in the Army National Guard on 15 October 2003; and entered active duty for training on 27 October 2003.
 - b. His records are void of a DA Form 4707 (Entrance Physical Standards Board (EPSBD) or a medical evaluation board.
 - c. He was released from active-duty training on 9 February 2004. His DD Form 214 shows he completed 3 months and 13 days of active service. He was assigned separation code LFW and the narrative reason for separation listed as “Did Not Meet Procurement Medical Fitness Standards,” with reentry code 3.

d. His NGB Form 22 (Report of Separation and Record of Service) shows the applicant was discharged with an uncharacterized character of service on 9 February 2004. He completed 3 months and 25 days of net service this period.

4. In reaching its determination, the Board can consider the applicant's petition and his service record in accordance with the published equity, injustice, or clemency determination guidance.

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. Soldiers in the U.S. Army Reserve are authorized an honorable discharge while in entry-level status only if they complete their active duty schooling and earn their designated military occupational specialty. The applicant did not complete training and was released from active duty due to failure to meet procurement medical fitness standards. The Board determined his DD Form 214 properly shows the appropriate characterization of service as uncharacterized.

2. An uncharacterized discharge is given to individuals on active duty who separate prior to completing 180 days of military service, or when the discharge action was initiated prior to 180 days of service. This type of discharge does not attempt to characterize service as good or bad. Through no fault of his own, he simply had a medical condition which was, unfortunately, not within enlistment standards.

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//

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. Army Regulation 15-185 (ABCMR) 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, which is that what the Army did was correct. The ABCMR is not an investigative body and decides cases based on the evidence that is presented in the military records provided and the independent evidence submitted with the application. The applicant has the burden of proving an error or injustice by a preponderance of the evidence.
2. Army Regulation 635-200 (Personnel Separations – Enlisted Personnel) 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 5-11 provides that Soldiers who are not medically qualified under procurement medical fitness standards when accepted for enlistment or who become medically disqualified under these standards prior to entrance 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 6 months of the Soldier's initial entrance on active duty, that the condition would have permanently or temporarily disqualified the Soldier for entry into military service had it been detected at that time, and the medical condition did not disqualify the Soldier from retention in the service. The character of service for Soldiers separated under this provision would normally be honorable but would be uncharacterized if the Soldier were in an entry-level status.
3. Army Regulation 635-8 (Separation Documents), currently in effect, prescribes policy and procedural guidance relating to transition management. Paragraph 2-4 (Completing the DD Form 214) provides detail instructions for data required for each block. Block 24 (Character of Service): this is based on regulatory or other authority and can be checked against the cross reference in Army Regulation 635-5-1 (Personnel Separation - Separation Program Designator (SPD) Codes).
4. Army Regulation 635-40 (Physical Evaluation for Retention, Retirement, or Separation) establishes the Army Physical Disability Evaluation System (PDES) according to the provisions of Title 10, U.S. Code (USC), Chapter 61, and Department of Defense Directive 1332.18. It sets forth policies, responsibilities, and procedures that

apply in determining whether a Soldier is unfit because of physical disability to reasonably perform the duties of his or her office, grade, rank, or rating. If a Soldier is found unfit because of physical disability, this regulation provides for disposition of the Soldier according to applicable laws and regulations.

a. The objectives of this regulation are:

- to maintain an effective and fit military organization with maximum use of available manpower
- to provide benefits for eligible Soldiers whose military service is terminated because of a service-connected disability
- to provide prompt disability processing while ensuring that the rights and interests of the Government and the Soldier are protected

b. provides that disability compensation is not an entitlement acquired by reason of service-incurred illness or injury; rather, it is provided to Soldiers whose service is interrupted and they can no longer continue to reasonably perform because of a physical disability incurred or aggravated in service.

c. Appendix B of this regulation states the VASRD provides that conditions which do not render a Soldier unfit for military service will not be considered in determining the compensable disability rating unless the conditions contribute to the finding of unfitness.

5. Title 38, USC, chapter 11, permits the VA to award compensation for a medical condition which was incurred in or aggravated by active military service. The VA, however, is not required 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's medical condition, although not considered physically unfit for military service at the time of processing for separation, discharge, or retirement, may be sufficient to qualify the individual for VA benefits based on an evaluation by that agency.

6. 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.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//