

1. 7 Applicant's Name: [REDACTED]

a. **Application Date:** 5 November 2020

b. **Date Received:** 9 November 2020

c. **Counsel:** None

2. REQUEST, ISSUES, BOARD TYPE, AND DECISION:

a. **Applicant's Requests and Issues:** The current characterization of service for the period under review is Under Other than Honorable Conditions. The applicant requests an upgrade to General (Under Honorable Conditions) or Uncharacterized, change their narrative reason and their separation and reentry codes.

b. The applicant seeks relief contending, they were 21 years old and very immature. They desired to join the Coast Guard (CG) while living in Alaska, when circumstances took them back to their home of record before they could enlist. Due to limited openings and the inability to join at the time, a CG recruiter suggested joining another branch and look to complete an interservice transfer. This led them to join the Army; they spoke with an Army recruiter and was quickly sent to Army basic training and from the beginning, they were not prepared, and knew they wanted to serve in another way. Being trained to serve as a Soldier quickly hit them, so they ran. After having been home, they were eager to resolve this and 69 days later, they went to Fort Knox and spent a week going through the discharge process.

(1) Since 2007, they have worked hard to improve their life. The applicant worked construction, as they made their way through college and two master's degrees. They attended seminary school and is [at the time] in their fourth year as a pastor and their seventh year in ministry. They have been with their spouse since 2006 and they have three remarkable children. Their spouse is an attorney and together they own their home and have been incredibly blessed (and privileged) in life. Their spouse is completely supportive of this endeavor; their relationship is very stable and believe together, this is the right path for their family.

(2) They have two brothers-in-law who are serving in the military and the applicant values them and their kinship. Being around them helped the applicant realize their call to ministry within the military. The applicant has never wanted to be a combatant Soldier, but they have always held great respect for those who are. Pursuing military chaplaincy is a way for them to give back to those who give so much for us. They are delighted and pursuing this call means they get the privilege of joining this community. They used to be a 21-year-old child who was too immature to handle the weight of this environment. They have grown tremendously over the last 13 years and look forward to potentially serving others while simultaneously getting some personal redemption in this area. They look forward to not having shame from their previous actions and instead living into a new reality. The applicant is not a young kid making impulsive decisions anymore and they know why they want to become an Army Chaplain Officer and this call will sustain them even when things are difficult or stressful.

c. **Board Type and Decision:** In a records review conducted on 08 March 2024, and by a 5-0 vote, the board determined that the characterization of service was inequitable based on the applicant's post-service accomplishments, and the time elapsed since the misconduct - Absent Without Authority (AWOL). Accordingly, the board voted to grant relief in the form of an upgrade to the characterization of service to Uncharacterized. The board determined the narrative reason/SPD code and RE code were proper and equitable and voted not to change them.

3. P DISCHARGE DETAILS:

a. Reason / Authority / Codes / Characterization: In Lieu of Trial by Court-Martial / AR 635-200, Chapter 10 / KFS / RE-4 / Under Other than Honorable Conditions

b. Date of Discharge: 1 August 2007

c. Separation Facts:

(1) Date of Notification of Intent to Separate: NIF

(2) Basis for Separation: Pursuant to the applicant's request for voluntary discharge provision of AR 635-200, Chapter 10, In Lieu of Trial by Court-Martial.

(3) Recommended Characterization: NIF

(4) Legal Consultation Date: 24 May 2007

(5) Administrative Separation Board: NA

(6) Separation Decision Date / Characterization: 16 July 2007 / Under Other than Honorable Conditions

4. SERVICE DETAILS:

a. Date / Period of Enlistment: 24 January 2007 / 8 years

b. Age at Enlistment / Education / GT Score: 21 / High School Diploma / NIF

c. Highest Grade Achieved / MOS / Total Service: E-2 / None / None

d. Prior Service / Characterizations: None

e. Overseas Service / Combat Service: None

f. Awards and Decorations: None

g. Performance Ratings: NA

h. Disciplinary Action(s) / Evidentiary Record:

(1) On 24 January 2007, the applicant enlisted in the United States Army Reserve's Delayed Entry Program for 8 years as a PVT.

(2) Three Personnel Action documents provide the following status changes:

Date	Duty Status From	Duty Status To
23 February 2007	Present for Duty (PDY)	Absent Without Leave (AWOL)
25 March 2007	AWOL	Dropped From Rolls (DFR)
21 May 2007	DFR	PDY

(3) On 25 March 2007, the applicant was charged in violation of Article 85, UCMJ, for desertion from on or about 23 February 2007; charges were preferred.

(4) On the same day, the commander reported the applicant as a wanted deserter/absentee, completed an investigation, notified authorities, and sent letter(s) to their next of kin, when the applicant was reported AWOL (24 February 2007) and DFR (25 March 2007), to urge the applicant to return to military control. On 4 May 2007, the Army Reserve Command released the applicant from training under the provisions of AR 630-10.

(5) On 21 May 2007, the applicant surrendered to their military control unit (Fort Knox).

(6) On 24 May 2007, the applicant was charged in violation of Article 86, UCMJ, for having been absent without leave (AWOL) from on or about 23 February – 21 May 2007.

(7) The same day, after consulting with counsel, the applicant voluntarily requested discharge for the good of the service in lieu of trial by court-martial under the provisions of Army Regulations 635-200, Chapter 10, discharge in lieu of trial by court-martial. In their request, they affirmed no one had subjected them to coercion, counsel advised them of the implications of their request, and the applicant further acknowledged they were guilty of the charge against them or a lesser one. Although understanding they may be discharged Under Other than Honorable Conditions, the applicant requested a General (Under Honorable Conditions) characterization of service and elected not to submit a statement on their behalf.

(a) Defense counsel endorsed their voluntary discharge request, acknowledging the applicant was counseled on the possible effects of an Under Other than Honorable Conditions characterization of service.

(b) On 11 July 2007, the Personnel Control Facility (PCF) commander recommended approval of the applicant's voluntary separation request, with a characterization of service of Under Other than Honorable Conditions and forwarded to the separation authority.

(c) On 16 July 2007, the appropriate separation authority approved their voluntary discharge request and characterized their service as Under Other than Honorable Conditions, with a reduction to the lowest enlisted grade.

(8) On 30 July 2007, their separation orders were issued. A DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) reflects the applicant was discharged accordingly on 1 August 2007, with 69 days of creditable days for all purposes except pay and allowances, characterized as Under Other than Honorable Conditions. The applicant has not completed their first full term of service.

i. **Lost Time / Mode of Return:** 69 days; (23 February – 20 May 2007) / Surrendered to Military Control

j. **Behavioral Health Condition(s):**

(1) **Applicant provided:** None

(2) **AMHRR Listed:** None

5. **APPLICANT-PROVIDED EVIDENCE:** DD Form 293 (Application for the Review of Discharge); Self-Authored Statement; Resume with qualifying educational and professional ministerial

experience; Four Third-Party Statements provides the following:

a. An undated letter from Reverend provides, the applicant went to seminary school with their spouse and have known them for four years now. Rev. is on the team evaluating the applicant's readiness and effectiveness to be Ordained as a United Methodist Elder. The applicant is a caring parent, pastor, and entrepreneur, excellent at their calling and just a good person who will make an excellent Chaplain. Their theology and experience make them radically hospitable and full of grace for those around them. It could only make us all stronger and safer to have the applicant serving our military in this way.

b. On 27 October 2020, Director, United Methodist Endorsing Agency (Chaplain (Colonel) U.S. Army (Retired)), provides the agency is aware the applicant went AWOL during basic training in 2007, which lead to their receiving an Under Other than Honorable Conditions. They are requesting their service be recharacterized in order for the applicant to serve in the Iowa Army National Guard, as a Chaplain. The incident occurred during a painful, chaotic, and disorienting period in the applicant's personal life. Since then, the applicant has matured and has been steadfast through years of preparation for ordained ministry. Their status as a clergy member of the United Methodist Church is prima facie evidence of the church's confidence in them and they were highly recommended by the filed-grade active duty Chaplains endorsed by their church. They are not the person who walked out of basic training 13 years ago. They are mature, dependable, and a person of honor and will be an asset to the Army and the nation.

c. On 29 October 2020, Chaplain, Iowa Army National Guard, provides the applicant's Under Other than Honorable characterization is an impediment to the applicant's efforts to apply and accession into the National Guard Chaplaincy. The characterization represents the decision they made as a young Soldier; however, it does not represent who the applicant is now. They have demonstrated the ability to finish what they started in other ways, such as completion of their professional education from George Fox Seminary in Portland, OR and Iliff School of Ministry in Denver, CO. They have pastored churches as assigned by their ecclesiastical organization and completed their duties without interruption or incident. The applicant has valuable skills that would make them a valued member of the chaplain corps. They speak well, both publicly and personally. They listen and has a demeanor that is both accessible and easy to talk with. Their life experiences have brought wisdom and insight, which will equip them to offer stable counsel and advice to service members who are going through anxiety and stress, as they did as a young troop. Their determination to pursue ministry within the military indicates a strength of character and commitment which qualifies them as the type of chaplain needed. Chaplain strongly recommends the applicant for direct commission into the Iowa Army National Guard and welcome the opportunity to serve with them.

d. On 3 November 2020, CW4, Iowa Army National Guard, provides they are in-laws to the applicant and has known them since 2007. When the applicant opened up about the issues surrounding their discharge, they were honest and owned the consequences of their actions but there was a sense of hurt pride and the applicant's desire to reenter the service grew stronger, as they discussed the National Guard more. The applicant has made truly remarkable accomplishments, and not just the education or their ordainment into the Methodist Church, but the impact the applicant has had on their community, where they are a recognized contributor. They believe the applicant is truly the epitome of a Citizen Soldier and requests consideration be given to them and their accomplishments and changing the applicant's characterization.

6. POST SERVICE ACCOMPLISHMENTS: The applicant worked in construction as they made their way through college and two master's degrees. They have attended seminary school and have just started their fourth year as a pastor and their seventh year in ministry. They have been

together with their spouse since 2006 and they have three remarkable children. Their spouse is an attorney, and they own their home and have been incredibly blessed (and privileged) in life.

7. STATUTORY, REGULATORY AND POLICY REFERENCE(S):

a. Section 1553, Title 10, United States Code (Review of Discharge or Dismissal) provides for the creation, composition, and scope of review conducted by a Discharge Review Board(s) within established governing standards. As amended by Sections 521 and 525 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020, 10 USC 1553 provides specific guidance to the Military Boards for Correction of Military/Naval Records and Discharge Review Boards when considering discharge upgrade requests by Veterans claiming Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), sexual trauma, intimate partner violence (IPV), or spousal abuse, as a basis for discharge review. The amended guidance provides that Boards will include, as a voting board member, a physician trained in mental health disorders, a clinical psychologist, or a psychiatrist when the discharge upgrade claim asserts a mental health condition, including PTSD, TBI, sexual trauma, IPV, or spousal abuse, as a basis for the discharge. Further, the guidance provides that Military Boards for Correction of Military/Naval Records and Discharge Review Boards will develop and provide specialized training specific to sexual trauma, IPV, spousal abuse, as well as the various responses of individuals to trauma.

b. Multiple Department of Defense Policy Guidance Memoranda published between 2014 and 2018. The documents are commonly referred to by the signatory authorities' last names (2014 Secretary of Defense Guidance [Hagel memo], 2016 Acting Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness [Carson memo], 2017 Official Performing the Duties of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness [Kurta memo], and 2018 Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness [Wilkie memo].

(1) Individually and collectively, these documents provide further clarification to the Military Discharge Review Boards and Boards for Correction of Military/Naval Records when considering requests by Veterans for modification of their discharge due to mental health conditions, including PTSD; TBI; sexual assault; or sexual harassment. Liberal consideration will be given to Veterans petitioning for discharge relief when the application for relief is based in whole or in part on matters relating to mental health conditions, including PTSD; TBI; sexual assault; or sexual harassment. Special consideration will be given to Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) determinations that document a mental health condition, including PTSD; TBI; or sexual assault/harassment potentially contributed to the circumstances resulting in a less than honorable discharge characterization. Special consideration will also be given in cases where a civilian provider confers diagnoses of a mental health condition, including PTSD; TBI; or sexual assault/harassment if the case records contain narratives supporting symptomatology at the time of service or when any other evidence which may reasonably indicate that a mental health condition, including PTSD; TBI; or sexual assault/harassment existed at the time of discharge might have mitigated the misconduct that caused a discharge of lesser characterization.

(2) Conditions documented in the service record that can reasonably be determined to have existed at the time of discharge will be considered to have existed at the time of discharge. In cases in which a mental health condition, including PTSD; TBI; or sexual assault/harassment may be reasonably determined to have existed at the time of discharge, those conditions will be considered potential mitigating factors in the misconduct that caused the characterization of service in question. All Boards will exercise caution in weighing evidence of mitigation in cases in which serious misconduct precipitated a discharge with a less than Honorable characterization of service. Potentially mitigating evidence of the existence of undiagnosed combat related PTSD, PTSD-related conditions due to TBI or sexual assault/harassment as causative factors in the misconduct resulting in discharge will be carefully weighed against the

severity of the misconduct. PTSD is not a likely cause of premeditated misconduct. Caution shall be exercised in weighing evidence of mitigation in all cases of misconduct by carefully considering the likely causal relationship of symptoms to the misconduct.

c. Army Regulation 15-180 (Army Discharge Review Board), dated 25 September 2019, sets forth the policies and procedures under which the Army Discharge Review Board is authorized to review the character, reason, and authority of any Servicemember discharged from active military service within 15 years of the Servicemember's date of discharge. Additionally, it prescribes actions and composition of the Army Discharge Review Board under Public Law 95-126; Section 1553, Title 10 United States Code; and Department of Defense Directive 1332.41 and Instruction 1332.28.

d. Army Regulation 635-200 provides the basic authority for the separation of enlisted personnel.

(1) An Honorable discharge is a separation with honor and is appropriate when the quality of the Soldier'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.

(2) A General discharge is a separation from the Army under honorable conditions and is issued to a Soldier whose military record is satisfactory but not sufficiently meritorious to warrant an honorable discharge.

(3) An Under other-than-honorable-conditions discharge is an administrative separation from the Service under conditions other than honorable and it may be issued for misconduct, fraudulent entry, security reasons, or in lieu of trial by court martial based on certain circumstances or patterns of behavior or acts or omissions that constitute a significant departure from the conduct expected of Soldiers in the Army.

(4) Chapter 10, Discharge in Lieu of Trial by Court Martial is applicable to members who committed an offense or offenses for which the authorized punishment included a bad conduct or dishonorable discharge could submit a request for discharge for the good of the service. The request could be submitted at any time after the charges had been preferred. Although an honorable or general was authorized, an under other than honorable conditions discharge was considered appropriate, unless the record was so meritorious it would warrant an honorable. After receiving legal counseling, the soldier may elect to submit a request for discharge in lieu of trial by court-martial. The soldier will sign a written request, certifying that they have been counseled, understands their rights, and may receive a discharge under other than honorable conditions. The following will accompany the request for discharge:

- A copy of the court-martial Charge Sheet (DD Form 458)
- Report of medical examination and mental status evaluation, if conducted
- A complete copy of all reports of investigation
- Any statement, documents, or other matter considered by the commanding officer in making their recommendation, including any information presented for consideration by the soldier or consulting counsel.
- A statement of any reasonable ground for belief that the soldier is, or was at the time of misconduct, mentally defective, deranged, or abnormal. When appropriate, evaluation by a psychiatrist will be included.

(5) Chapter 15 provides explicitly for separation under the prerogative of the Secretary of the Army. Secretarial plenary separation authority is exercised sparingly and seldom delegated. Ordinarily, it is used when no other provision of this regulation applies, and early

separation is clearly in the Army's best interest. Separations under this paragraph are effective only if approved in writing by the Secretary of the Army or the Secretary's approved designee as announced in updated memoranda. Secretarial separation authority is normally exercised on a case-by-case basis.

e. Army Regulation 635-5-1 (Separation Program Designator (SPD) Codes) provides the specific authorities (regulatory or directive), reasons for separating Soldiers from active duty, and the SPD codes to be entered on the DD Form 214. It identifies the SPD code of "KFS" as the appropriate code to assign enlisted Soldiers who are discharged under the provisions of Army Regulation 635-200, Chapter 10, In Lieu of Trial by Court-Martial.

f. Army Regulation 601-210, Regular Army, and Reserve Components Enlistment Program, governs eligibility criteria, policies, and procedures for enlistment and processing of persons into the Regular Army, the U.S. Army Reserve, and Army National Guard for enlistment per DODI 1304.26. It also prescribes the appointment, reassignment, management, and mobilization of Reserve Officers' Training Corps cadets under the Simultaneous Membership Program. Chapter 4 provides the criteria and procedures for waivable and nonwaivable separations. Table 3-1, defines reentry eligibility (RE) codes:

(1) RE-1 Applies to: Person completing his or her term of active service who is considered qualified to reenter the U.S. Army. Eligibility: Qualified for enlistment if all other criteria are met.

(2) RE-3 Applies to: Person who is not considered fully qualified for reentry or continuous service at time of separation, but disqualification is waivable. Eligibility: Ineligible unless a waiver is granted.

(3) RE-4 Applies to: Person separated from last period of service with a nonwaivable disqualification. This includes anyone with a DA imposed bar to reenlistment in effect at time of separation or separated for any reason (except length of service retirement) with 18 or more years active Federal service. Eligibility: Ineligible for enlistment.

8. SUMMARY OF FACT(S): The Army Discharge Review Board considers applications for upgrade as instructed by Department of Defense Instruction 1332.28.

a. The applicant requests an upgrade to General (Under Honorable Conditions) or Uncharacterized, change their narrative reason and their separation and reentry codes. The applicant's Army Military Human Resources Record (AMHRR), the issues, and documents submitted with the application were carefully reviewed.

b. A review of the available records provides the applicant enlisted in the USAR's Delayed Entry Program for 14 days and served on continuous active duty for 17 days in an entry level status (ELS) at Fort Jackson prior to having been AWOL; their charge of desertion was preferred. They surrendered to military control (Fort Knox) 69 days later of excess leave and was charged with having been AWOL. As a result of the charges and after consulting with defense counsel, the applicant requested to be voluntarily discharged in lieu of trial by court-martial, electing not to submit a statement on their behalf. They were separated with an Under Other than Honorable Conditions characterization of service and reduced to the lowest enlisted grade.

c. The record is void of a medical and/or mental status examination, although, not required for a voluntary discharge request, this can be requested by the Soldier.

d. Army Regulation 635-200 states Chapter 10 is a voluntary discharge request in-lieu of trial by court-martial. A discharge under other than honorable conditions normally is appropriate for a soldier who is discharge in lieu of trial by court-martial. However, the separation authority may direct a general discharge if such is merited by the Soldier's overall record during the current enlistment. For Soldiers who have completed entry-level status, characterization of service as honorable is not authorized unless the Soldier's record is otherwise so meritorious that any other characterization clearly would be improper.

e. Published Department of Defense guidance indicates that the guidance is not intended to interfere or impede on the Board's statutory independence. The Board will determine the relative weight of the action that led to the discharge and whether it supports relief or not. In reaching its determination, the Board shall consider the applicant's petition, available records and/or submitted documents in support of the petition.

9. BOARD DISCUSSION AND DETERMINATION:

a. As directed by the 2017 memo signed by A.M. Kurta, the board considered the following factors:

(1) Did the applicant have a condition or experience that may excuse or mitigate the discharge? **No**. The Board's Medical Advisor reviewed DoD and VA medical records and found no mitigating BH diagnoses on the applicant. The applicant provided no documents or testimony of a condition or experience, that, when applying liberal consideration, could have excused, or mitigated a discharge.

(2) Did the condition exist, or experience occur during military service? **N/A**

(3) Does the condition or experience actually excuse or mitigate the discharge? **N/A**

(4) Does the condition or experience outweigh the discharge? **N/A**

b. Response to Contention(s):

(1) The applicant requests an upgrade to General (Under Honorable Conditions) or Uncharacterized, change their narrative reason and their separation and reentry codes. The board considered this contention and voted to grant relief in the form of an upgrade of the characterization of service to Uncharacterized based off the applicant's post-service accomplishments and the time elapsed since the misconduct (AWOL). No other relief to the narrative reason or RE-code are warranted.

(2) The applicant seeks relief contending, they were 21 years old and very immature. They desired to join the Coast Guard (CG) while living in Alaska, when circumstances took them back to their home of record before they could enlist. Due to limited openings and the inability to join at the time, a CG recruiter suggested joining another branch and look to complete an interservice transfer. This led them to join the Army; they spoke with an Army recruiter and was quickly sent to Army basic training and from the beginning, they were not prepared, and knew they wanted to serve in another way. Being trained to serve as a Soldier quickly hit them, so they ran. After having been home, they were eager to resolve this and 69 days later, they went to Fort Knox and spent a week going through the discharge process. The Board considered this contention during proceedings, but ultimately did not address the contention due to an upgrade being granted as outlined above in 9b (1).

(3) The applicant contends, since 2007, they have worked hard to improve their life. They worked construction, as they made their way through college and two master's degrees. They attended seminary school and is [at the time] in their fourth year as a pastor and their seventh year in ministry. They have been with their spouse since 2006 and they have three remarkable children. Their spouse is an attorney and together they own their home and have been incredibly blessed (and privileged) in life. Their spouse is completely supportive of this endeavor; their relationship is very stable and believe together, this is the right path for their family. The Board considered this contention during proceedings, but ultimately did not address the contention due to an upgrade being granted as outlined above in 9b (1).

(4) They have two brothers-in-law who are serving in the military and the applicant values them and their kinship. Being around them helped the applicant realize their call to ministry within the military. The applicant has never wanted to be a combatant Soldier, but they have always held great respect for those who are. Pursuing military chaplaincy is a way for them to give back to those who give so much for us. They are delighted and pursuing this call means they get the privilege of joining this community. They used to be a 21-year-old child who was too immature to handle the weight of this environment. They have grown tremendously over the last 13 years and look forward to potentially serving others while simultaneously getting some personal redemption in this area. They look forward to not having shame from their previous actions and instead living into a new reality. The applicant is not a young kid making impulsive decisions anymore and they know why they want to become an Army Chaplain Officer and this call will sustain them even when things are difficult or stressful. The Board considered this contention during proceedings, but ultimately did not address the contention due to an upgrade being granted as outlined above in 9b (1).

(5) The Reverend contends, the applicant is a caring parent, pastor, and entrepreneur, excellent at their calling and just a good person who will make an excellent Chaplain. Their theology and experience make them radically hospitable and full of grace for those around them. It could only make us all stronger and safer to have the applicant serving our military in this way. The Board considered this contention during proceedings, but ultimately did not address the contention due to an upgrade being granted as outlined above in 9b (1).

(6) The Director contends, in order for the applicant to serve as a Chaplain, in the Iowa Army National Guard, their service must be recharacterized. The incident occurred during a painful, chaotic, and disorienting period in the applicant's personal life. Since then, the applicant has matured and has been steadfast through years of preparation for ordained ministry. Their status as a clergy member of the United Methodist Church is prima facie evidence of the church's confidence in them and they were highly recommended by the filed-grade active duty Chaplains endorsed by their church. They are not the person who walked out of basic training 13 years ago. They are mature, dependable, and a person of honor and will be an asset to the Army and the nation. The Board considered this contention during proceedings, but ultimately did not address the contention due to an upgrade being granted as outlined above in 9b (1).

(7) The Chaplain, Iowa Army National Guard, contends, the applicant's Under Other than Honorable characterization is an impediment to the applicant's efforts to apply and accession into the National Guard Chaplaincy. The characterization represents the decision they made as a young Soldier; however, it does not represent who the applicant is now. They have demonstrated the ability to finish what they started in other ways, such as completion of their professional education from George Fox Seminary in Portland, OR and Iliff School of Ministry in Denver, CO. They have pastored churches as assigned by their ecclesiastical organization and completed their duties without interruption or incident. The applicant has valuable skills that would make them a valued member of the chaplain corps. They speak well, both publicly and personally. They listen and has a demeanor that is both accessible and easy

to talk with. Their life experiences have brought wisdom and insight, which will equip them to offer stable counsel and advice to service members who are going through anxiety and stress, as they did as a young troop. Their determination to pursue ministry within the military indicates a strength of character and commitment which qualifies them as the type of chaplain needed. Chaplain strongly recommends the applicant for direct commission into the Iowa Army National Guard and welcome the opportunity to serve with them. The Board considered this contention during proceedings, but ultimately did not address the contention due to an upgrade being granted as outlined above in 9b (1).

(8) CW4, Iowa Army National Guard, provides they are in-laws to the applicant and has known them since 2007. When the applicant opened up about the issues surrounding their discharge, they were honest and owned the consequences of their actions but there was a sense of hurt pride and the applicant's desire to reenter the service grew stronger, as they discussed the National Guard more. The applicant has made truly remarkable accomplishments, and not just the education or their ordainment into the Methodist Church, but the impact the applicant has had on their community, where they are a recognized contributor. They believe the applicant is truly the epitome of a Citizen Soldier and requests consideration be given to them and their accomplishments and changing the applicant's characterization. The Board considered this contention during proceedings, but ultimately did not address the contention due to an upgrade being granted as outlined above in 9b (1).

c. The board determined the discharge is inequitable based off the applicant's post-service accomplishments and the time elapsed since the misconduct (AWOL). Therefore, the board voted to grant relief in the form of an upgrade of the characterization of service to Uncharacterized.

d. Rationale for Decision:

(1) The board voted to change the applicant's characterization of service to Uncharacterized based off the applicant's post-service accomplishments and the time elapsed since the misconduct (AWOL). Thus, the prior characterization is no longer appropriate.

(2) The board voted not to change the applicant's reason for discharge or accompanying SPD code under the same pretexts, as the reason the applicant was discharged was both proper and equitable.

(3) The RE code will not change, as the current code is consistent with the procedural and substantive requirements of the regulation.

ARMY DISCHARGE REVIEW BOARD CASE REPORT AND DIRECTIVE

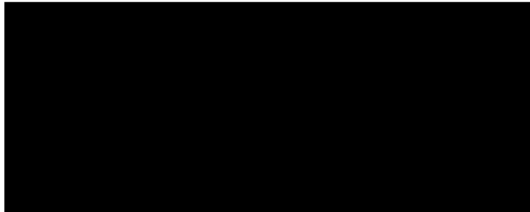
AR20200010215

10. BOARD ACTION DIRECTED:

- a. Issue a New DD-214 / Separation Order: Yes
- b. Change Characterization to: Uncharacterized
- c. Change Reason / SPD code to: No Change
- d. Change RE Code to: No Change
- e. Change Authority to: No Change

Authenticating Official:

3/27/2024



AMHRR – Army Military Human
Resource Record
BCD – Bad Conduct Discharge
BH – Behavioral Health
CG – Company Grade Article 15
CID – Criminal Investigation
Division
ELS – Entry Level Status
FG – Field Grade Article 15

HS – High School
HD – Honorable Discharge
IADT – Initial Active Duty Training
MP – Military Police
MST – Military Sexual Trauma
N/A – Not applicable
NCO – Noncommissioned Officer
NIF – Not in File
NOS – Not Otherwise Specified

OAD – Ordered to Active Duty
OBH (I) – Other Behavioral
Health (Issues)
OMPF – Official Military
Personnel File
PTSD – Post-Traumatic Stress
Disorder
RE – Re-entry
SCM – Summary Court Martial
SPCM – Special Court Martial

SPD – Separation Program
Designator
TBI – Traumatic Brain Injury
UNC – Uncharacterized
Discharge
UOTHC – Under Other Than
Honorable Conditions
VA – Department of Veterans
Affairs