

**1. Applicant's Name:** [REDACTED]

- a. **Application Date:** 26 April 2021
- b. **Date Received:** 26 April 2021
- 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 honorable. The applicant requests an upgrade to their reentry code and a narrative reason change and a change to the narrative reason for separation.

The applicant seeks relief, contending, in effect, the current RE-3 separation code and "personality disorder" narrative reason for discharge inaccurately reflects the circumstances of separation and create an undue barrier to reenlistment. The applicant requests a change to RE-1 or RE-3A, or another waiverable reenlistment code, and further requests the narrative reason be amended from "personality disorder" to "failure to adapt." The applicant asserts the original discharge resulted not from a diagnosed ongoing mental condition, but from unit-specific circumstances and morale issues within a company known for its unusually harsh treatment of Soldiers. The applicant reports being targeted by leadership, particularly the First Sergeant, due to not being an 11B, despite performing well as the assigned administrative specialist. After enduring sustained mistreatment, the applicant went AWOL, later self-reported, and was not formally punished. The applicant states there were no prior disciplinary actions and the decision to separate them under AR 635-200, paragraph 5-13 was accepted at the time due to discouragement and lack of support. The applicant now seeks an accurate characterization of their separation, not implying a permanent medical condition, and one allowing a second opportunity to serve.

b. **Board Type and Decision:** In a records review conducted on 15 July 2025, and by a 5-0 vote, the Board determined the narrative reason for the applicant's separation is inequitable based on the AR 635-200 no longer using Personality Disorder as a narrative reason for separation. Therefore, the Board directed the issue of a new DD Form 214 changing the separation authority to AR 635-200, paragraph 5-17, and the narrative reason for separation to Condition, Not a Disability, with a corresponding separation code to JFV. The board determined the RE code was proper and equitable and voted not to change it.

*Please see Section 9 of this document for more detail regarding the Board's decision.*

*(Board member names available upon request)*

**3. DISCHARGE DETAILS:**

a. **Reason / Authority / Codes / Characterization:** Personality Disorder / AR 635-200, Paragraph 5-13 / JFX / RE-3 / Honorable

b. **Date of Discharge:** 10 August 2007

c. **Separation Facts:**

(1) **Date of Notification of Intent to Separate:** 20 July 2007

**(2) Basis for Separation:** The applicant was informed of the following reasons: they were diagnosed with having a personality disorder on 17 May-2007. As defined by AR 635-200, a personality disorder is a deeply ingrained, maladaptive pattern of behavior of long duration that interferes with the Soldier's ability to perform duty.

**(3) Recommended Characterization:** Honorable

**(4) Legal Consultation Date:** The applicant was advised by counsel in a memorandum. The date is illegible.

**(5) Administrative Separation Board:** NA

**(6) Separation Decision Date / Characterization:** 26 July 2007 / Honorable

**4. SERVICE DETAILS:**

**a. Date / Period of Enlistment:** 4 May 2004 / 4 years

**b. Age at Enlistment / Education / GT Score:** 24 / High School Graduate / 117

**c. Highest Grade Achieved / MOS / Total Service:** E-4 / 42L10, Administrative Specialist / 3 years, 10 days

**d. Prior Service / Characterizations:** None

**e. Overseas Service / Combat Service:** None

**f. Awards and Decorations:** NDSM, GWOTSM, ASR

**g. Performance Ratings:** NA

**h. Disciplinary Action(s) / Evidentiary Record:** Four Personnel Action forms reflect the applicant's duty status changed as follows:

From Present for Duty (PDY) to Absent Without Leave (AWOL), effective 22 January 2007;  
 From PDY to AWOL, effective 27 January 2007;  
 From AWOL to Dropped From Rolls (DFR), effective 23 February 2007;  
 From AWOL to PDY, effective 23 April 2007.

Report of Absentee, 26 March 2007, reflects the applicant went AWOL on 22 January 2007 and surrendered to military control on 24 February 2007.

Drop From Rolls EMILPO printout, 5 March 2007, reflects the applicant was dropped from rolls on 23 February 2007.

Deserter / Absentee wanted by the Armed Forces form, 16 February 2007, reflects the applicant became a deserter on 21 February 2007.

Report of Return of Absentee, 26 March 2007, reflects the applicant surrendered to military control on 29 February 2007.

**i. Lost Time / Mode of Return:** 86 days (AWOL, 27 January 2007 – 23 April 2007)

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

(1) **Applicant provided:** None

(2) **AMHRR Listed:** Routine Command Directed Evaluation, 18 May 2007, reflects the applicant underwent a clinical interview. The applicant was diagnosed with personalist disorder NOS with borderline antisocial traits. The clinician recommended the applicant's separation based on the interview in accordance with chapter 5-12. The applicant did not have a severe disorder but manifested a long-standing disorder of character, behavior and adaptability of such a severity to preclude adequate military service. The applicant's personality disorder was likely not to respond to the command's efforts at rehabilitation.

*The ARBA's medical advisor reviewed DoD and VA medical records, including documents listed in 4j(1) and (2) above.*

**5. APPLICANT-PROVIDED EVIDENCE:** Application for the Review of Discharge, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty.

**6. POST SERVICE ACCOMPLISHMENTS:** None submitted with the application.

**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), 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 (Active Duty Enlisted Administrative Separations), provides the basic authority for the separation of enlisted personnel.

(1) Chapter 3, Section II provides the authorized types of characterization of service or description of separation.

(2) Paragraph 3-7a states 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.

(3) Chapter 5 provides for the basic separation of enlisted personnel for the convenience of the government.

(4) Paragraph 5-13, in effect at the time, provided that a Soldier may be separated for a personality disorder, not amounting to disability, when the condition interfered with assignment to or performance of duty. The regulation requires that the condition is a deeply ingrained maladaptive pattern of behavior of long duration that interferes with the Soldier's ability to perform military duties. The regulation also directs that commanders will not take action prescribed in this Chapter in lieu of disciplinary action and requires that the disorder is so severe that the Soldier's ability to function in the military environment is significantly impaired. Army policy requires the award of a fully honorable discharge in such case.

(5) Paragraph 5-13h, stipulates a characterization of a Soldier separated per this paragraph will be characterized as honorable unless an entry-level separation is required under

chapter 3, section II. Characterization of service under honorable conditions may be awarded to a Soldier who has been convicted of an offense by general court-martial or who has been convicted by more than one special court-martial in the current enlistment, period of obligated service, or any extension thereof.

e. Army Regulation 635-5-1 (Separation Program Designator (SPD) Codes), in effect at the time, provided 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 identified the SPD code of "JFX" as the appropriate code to assign enlisted Soldiers who were discharged under the provisions of Army Regulation 635-200, Chapter 5-13, personality disorder.

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 waiverable and nonwaiverable separations. Table 3-1, defines reentry eligibility (RE) codes:

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.

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

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

The applicant requests an upgrade to honorable. The applicant's Army Military Human Resources Record (AMHRR), the issues, and documents submitted with the application were carefully reviewed.

Evidence in the applicant's Army Military Human Resource Record (AMHRR) confirms the applicant was diagnosed by a competent medical authority with a personality disorder: Personality Disorder, Not Otherwise Specified with borderline antisocial traits.

The applicant contends the original discharge did not result from a diagnosed ongoing mental condition, but from unit-specific circumstances and morale issues within a company known for its unusually harsh treatment of Soldiers. The applicant did not submit evidence other than their statement to support the contention. The applicant's AMHRR contains documentation supporting an in-service diagnosis. The record shows the applicant underwent a mental status evaluation (MSE) on 18 May 2007, indicating the applicant was mentally responsible and was able to recognize right from wrong. The separation authority considered the MSE.

The applicant requests the narrative reason be changed from "personality disorder" to "failure to adapt." The applicant was separated under Chapter 5, paragraph 5-13, AR 635-200 provisions with an honorable discharge. The narrative reason specified by Army Regulations for a discharge under this paragraph is "Personality Disorder," and the separation code is "JFX." Army Regulation 635-8 (Separation Processing and Documents) governs the preparation of the DD Form 214 and dictates the entry of the narrative reason for separation, entered in block 28, and separation code, entered in block 26 of the form, will be as listed in tables 2-2 or 2-3 of AR 635-5-1 (Separation Program Designator (SPD) Codes). The regulation stipulates no deviation is authorized. There is no provision for entry of any other reason under this regulation.

The applicant requests a change to RE-1 or RE-3A, or another waivable reenlistment code. Soldiers processed for separation are assigned reentry codes based on their service records or the reason for discharge. Based on Army Regulation 601-210, the applicant was appropriately assigned an RE code of "3." There is no basis for granting a change to the reason or the RE code. An RE Code of "3" indicates the applicant requires a waiver before being allowed to reenlist. Recruiters can best advise a former service member on the Army's needs at the time and must process waivers of reentry eligibility (RE) codes if appropriate.

#### 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.** A review of the available information reflects the applicant was not separated due to misconduct, but rather was separated under provisions of AR 635-200, Chapter 5-13 (Personality Disorder). Evidence in the records support the diagnosis and separation decision as proper and equitable. A change to the reentry code is not supported, given the applicant was diagnosed with a BH condition during service that requires a waiver for reenlistment.

(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 contends the original discharge did not result from a diagnosed ongoing mental condition, but from unit-specific circumstances and morale issues within a company known for its unusually harsh treatment of soldiers. The Board considered this contention but found insufficient evidence in the applicant's AMHRR or applicant-provided evidence in the applicant's AMHRR or applicant-provided evidence to support the contention that the discharge was the product of unusually harsh treatment.

(2) The applicant requests the narrative reason be amended from "personality disorder" to "failure to adapt". The Board considered this contention but found no evidence to support a change to Failure to Adapt. However, the Board determined that the narrative reason should change to Condition, Not a Disability based of updates to the separation regulation, AR 635-200.

(3) The applicant requests a change to RE-1 or RE-3A, or another waivable reenlistment code. The Board considered this contention and voted to maintain the RE-code to at RE-3, based on the applicant's behavioral health conditions requiring a waiver prior to reentry. An RE Code of "3" indicates the applicant requires a waiver before being allowed to reenlist. Recruiters can best advise a former service member as to the Army's needs at the time and are required to process waivers of reentry eligibility (RE) codes, if appropriate

c. The Board determined the narrative reason for the applicant's separation is inequitable based on the AR 635-200 no longer using Personality Disorder as a narrative reason for separation. Therefore, the Board directed the issue of a new DD Form 214 changing the separation authority to AR 635-200, paragraph 5-17, and the narrative reason for separation to

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Condition, Not a Disability, with a corresponding separation code to JFV. The board determined the RE code was proper and equitable and voted not to change it.

**d. Rationale for Decision:**

(1) The Board voted not to change the applicant's characterization of service as the applicant already holds an honorable characterization and further relief is not available.

(2) The Board voted to change the reason for discharge to Condition, Not a Disability under the same pretexts, thus the reason for discharge is no longer appropriate. The SPD code associated with the new reason for discharge is JFV.

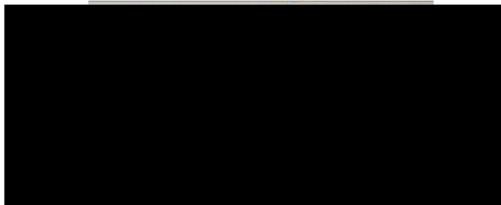
(3) The RE code will not change, as the current code is consistent with the procedural and substantive requirements of the regulation.

**10. BOARD ACTION DIRECTED:**

- a. Issue a New DD-214: Yes**
- b. Change Characterization to: No Change**
- c. Change Reason / SPD Code to: Condition, Not a Disability / JFV**
- d. Change RE Code to: No Change**
- e. Change Authority to: AR 635-200**

**Authenticating Official:**

9/5/2025



**Legend:**

AWOL – Absent Without Leave  
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

GD – General Discharge  
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