

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 a narrative reason change and a reentry eligibility (RE) code change.

The applicant seeks relief contending, in effect, their parent's medical and financial condition were why the applicant chose to leave the Army. They felt a deep responsibility to support their family during challenging times. With limited resources and increasing medical expenses, it became clear their loyalty to loved ones outweighed their commitment to military service. The applicant contends they were instructed by their leadership on how to obtain an honorable discharge but were never informed it would be classified as a medical discharge. The applicant desires to reenlist.

- b. Board Type and Decision:** In a records review conducted on 22 May 2025, and by a 5-0 vote, the Board determined the narrative reason for the applicant's separation is inequitable based on the relevant Army Regulation 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.

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 November 2001

- c. Separation Facts:**

- (1) Date of Notification of Intent to Separate:** 16 October 2001

- (2) Basis for Separation:** The applicant was informed of the following reasons: The applicant had been diagnosed by a qualified physician trained in psychiatry as having Axis I: Adjustment Disorder with Mixed Disturbance of Emotion and Conduct; and Axis II: Personality Disorder, Not Otherwise Specified with antisocial features.

- (3) Recommended Characterization:** Honorable

- (4) Legal Consultation Date:** On 16 October 2001, the applicant waived legal counsel.

- (5) Administrative Separation Board:** NA

(6) Separation Decision Date / Characterization: 23 October 2001 / Honorable

4. SERVICE DETAILS:

- a. Date / Period of Enlistment:** 7 September 2000 / 4 years
- b. Age at Enlistment / Education / GT Score:** 20 / High School Graduate / 111
- c. Highest Grade Achieved / MOS / Total Service:** E-3 / 75B1O, Personnel Administration Specialist / 1 year, 2 months, 4 days
- d. Prior Service / Characterizations:** None
- e. Overseas Service / Combat Service:** Korea / None
- f. Awards and Decorations:** ASR
- g. Performance Ratings:** NA
- h. Disciplinary Action(s) / Evidentiary Record:** The applicant's DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) reflects the applicant had completed the first full term of service. The applicant was discharged under the authority of AR 635-200, paragraph 5-13 with a narrative reason of Personality Disorder. The DD Form 214 was authenticated with the applicant's signature.

Five Developmental Counseling Forms for Chapter 13; fighting; suicidal thoughts; disrespect and to define the applicant's duties.

- i. Lost Time / Mode of Return:** None
- j. Behavioral Health Condition(s):**

(1) Applicant provided: Memorandum for Record, Retention of [Applicant], 2 October 2001, reflects the applicant had been diagnosed with both depression and personality disorder, not otherwise specified, with antisocial features.

Medical Progress Note, 10 November 2010, reflects a diagnosis of Adjustment Disorder React Mixed emotions.

(2) AMHRR Listed: Memorandum for Record, Retention of [Applicant], as described in previous paragraph 4j(1).

Report of Mental Status Evaluation, 14 September 2001, reflects the applicant was cleared for any administrative actions deemed appropriate by the command. The applicant could understand and participate in administrative proceedings; could appreciate the difference between right and wrong; and met medical retention requirements. The evaluation included a diagnosis of Axis I: Adjustment Disorder with Mixed Disturbance of Emotion and Conduct; Axis II: Personality Disorder, Not Otherwise Specified with antisocial features.

Report of Medical History and Examination, 11 October 2001, the examining medical physician noted in the comments section: Depression.

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

5. APPLICANT-PROVIDED EVIDENCE: Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty; two Applications for the Review of Discharge; two self-authored statements; medical progress notes; Student Transcript Report; Dover Business College Record; Academic Transcript; three Public Safety Institute Certificates; four Certificates of Commendation; Emergency Medical Services Certificate; Dwight Morrow High School Diploma; Dover Business College Diploma; Emergency Telecommunicator Certificate; National Academies of Emergency Dispatch Certificate; four FEMA Certificates; 19 Department of Law & Public Safety Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness Division of State Police Certificates.

6. POST SERVICE ACCOMPLISHMENTS: The applicant attended school and sought help from the VA for their mental health.

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.

(6) 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), 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 waivable and nonwaivable 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 waivable. 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 antisocial features.

The applicant contends the narrative reason for separation needs changed. 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 contends their parent's medical and financial condition were why the applicant chose to leave the Army. The applicant provided a Memorandum for Record, Retention of

[Applicant], 2 October 2001, reflecting the applicant had been diagnosed with both depression and personality disorder, not otherwise specified, with antisocial features. A Medical Progress Note, 10 November 2010, reflecting a diagnosis of Adjustment Disorder React Mixed emotions. The AMHRR includes a Report of Mental Status Evaluation, 14 September 2001, reflecting the applicant was cleared for any administrative actions deemed appropriate by the command. The evaluation included a diagnosis of Axis I: Adjustment Disorder with Mixed Disturbance of Emotion and Conduct; Axis II: Personality Disorder, Not Otherwise Specified with antisocial features. Also, a Report of Medical History and Examination, 11 October 2001, the examining medical physician noted in the comments section: Depression. The separation authority considered all medical documents.

The applicant desires to rejoin the military service. 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.

The applicant contends attending school and seeking help from the VA for their mental health. The Army Discharge Review Board is authorized to consider post-service factors in the recharacterization of a discharge. No law or regulation provides for the upgrade of an unfavorable discharge based solely on the passage of time or good conduct in civilian life after leaving the service. The Board reviews each discharge on a case-by-case basis to determine if post-service accomplishments help demonstrate previous in-service misconduct was an aberration and not indicative of the member's overall character.

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? **Yes.** The Board's Medical Advisor, a voting member, reviewed the applicant's DOD and VA health records, applicant's statement, and/or civilian provider documentation and found evidence of BH conditions to include an Adjustment Disorder, Depression, and Anxiety. However, there is no misconduct associated with this discharge to potentially excuse or mitigate. The applicant was separated for a Personality Disorder in accordance with the regulations at the time.

(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 Contentions:

(1) The applicant contends their parent's medical and financial conditions were why the applicant chose to leave the Army.

The Board acknowledged this contention but determined that the applicant's medical and financial difficulties did not mitigate the discharge as the applicant holds an honorable characterization of service.

(2) The applicant contends the narrative reason for separation needs changed. The Board determined this contention was valid and voted to change the narrative reason for separation to Condition, Not a Disability.

(3) The applicant desires to rejoin the military service. The Board considered this contention and voted to maintain/change the RE-code to a RE-3, which is a waivable 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 as to the Army's needs at the time and are required to process waivers of reentry eligibility (RE) codes, if appropriate.

(4) The applicant contends attending school and sought help from the VA for their mental health.

The Board acknowledged this contention but determined that it did not warrant further change above that already decided based on changes to AR 635-200.

c. The Board determined the narrative reason for the applicant's separation is inequitable based on the relevant Army Regulation 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.

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, 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.

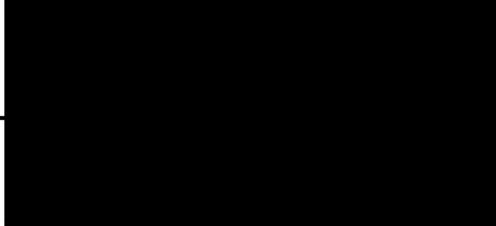
ARMY DISCHARGE REVIEW BOARD CASE REPORT AND DIRECTIVE
AR20210000034

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:

7/15/2025



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