

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 general (under honorable conditions). The applicant requests an upgrade to honorable.

The applicant seeks relief contending, in effect, since returning home and enrolling in Alcoholics Anonymous, the applicant had time to reflect and look back on themself and their actions and concluded, being a Soldier is their calling and it is what God put them on earth to be. The applicant misses the honor and respect they had and their fellow Soldiers. The applicant contends at the time of their discharge, it was for failure to rehabilitate, but the applicant had a deep conversation with their chain of command, and it was decided the applicant was able to do their job and had learned their lesson with just the mere threat of a chapter. Upon returning home on what was to be their last visit before deployment, the applicant had a heart-to-heart with their parents, and it was determined due to their age and physical health issues, they would not be able to look after the applicant's children while they went overseas. The applicant had the same conversation with their chain of command and asked them to push their paperwork through, and to their understanding, the chapter was the fastest way to get them home to their family. The applicant requests a change of their reenlistment code.

- b. **Board Type and Decision:** In a records review conducted on 22 May 2025, and by a 5-0 vote, the Board determined the discharge is inequitable based on the applicant's length and quality of service, to include combat service and the circumstances surrounding the discharge (IPV and MDD diagnoses outweighing the applicant's misconduct). Therefore, the Board voted to grant relief in the form of an upgrade of the characterization of service to Honorable. The Board determined the narrative reason/SPD code and RE code were proper and equitable and voted not to change them.

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

3. DISCHARGE DETAILS:

- a. **Reason / Authority / Codes / Characterization:** Alcohol Rehabilitation Failure / AR 635-200, Chapter 9 / JPD / RE-4 / General (Under Honorable Conditions)

- b. **Date of Discharge:** 18 August 2010

- c. **Separation Facts:**

- (1) **Date of Notification of Intent to Separate:** 12 June 2010

- (2) **Basis for Separation:** The applicant was informed of the following reasons: The applicant failed to be rehabilitated for their alcohol dependence.

- (3) **Recommended Characterization:** Honorable

(4) Legal Consultation Date: 14 June 2010

(5) Administrative Separation Board: NA

(6) Separation Decision Date / Characterization: 16 July 2010 / General (Under Honorable Conditions)

4. SERVICE DETAILS:

a. Date / Period of Enlistment: 2 November 2006 / 3 years, 22 weeks

b. Age at Enlistment / Education / GT Score: 28 / General Educational Development (GED) / 92

c. Highest Grade Achieved / MOS / Total Service: E-4 / 92Y1O, Unit Supply Specialist / 3 years, 9 months, 17 days

d. Prior Service / Characterizations: None

e. Overseas Service / Combat Service: SWA / Iraq (24 October 2007 – 5 December 2008)

f. Awards and Decorations: ARCOM, AGCM, NDSM, ASR

g. Performance Ratings: NA

h. Disciplinary Action(s) / Evidentiary Record: Summary of Army Substance Abuse Program Rehabilitation Failure (memo), 19 May 2010, reflects the applicant's rehabilitation team met on 13 May 2010, it was determined the applicant had failed to comply with treatment plans and goals. The applicant, has continued to drink as evidenced by the applicant having an alcohol related incident on 12 May 2010, during which the applicant was taken to the MP station and had a BAC of .17. Further rehabilitation efforts in a military environment are not practical in light of the applicant's lack of progress.

Numerous Developmental Counseling Forms for monthly performance and one for misconduct.

i. Lost Time / Mode of Return: None

j. Behavioral Health Condition(s):

(1) Applicant provided: None

(2) AMHRR Listed: Report of Medical Examination and History, 15 June 2010, the examining medical physician noted in the comments section: Depression and anxiety.

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; Application for the Review of Discharge.

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) Paragraph 3-7b states 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.

(4) Chapter 9 outlines the procedures for discharging individuals because of alcohol or other drug abuse. A member who has been referred to the Army Substance Abuse Program (ASAP) for alcohol or drug abuse may be separated because of inability or refusal to participate in, cooperate in, or successfully complete such a program if there is a lack of potential for continued Army service and rehabilitation efforts are no longer practical.

(5) Paragraph 9-4, stipulates the service of Soldiers discharged under this section will be characterized as honorable or under honorable conditions unless the Soldier is in entry-level status and an uncharacterized description of service is required. An honorable discharge is mandated in any case in which the Government initially introduces into the final discharge process limited use evidence as defined by AR 600-85.

(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), 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 "JPD" as the appropriate code to assign enlisted Soldiers who are discharged under the provisions of Army Regulation 635-200, Chapter 9, for alcohol rehabilitation failure.

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.

RE-4 Applies to: Person separated from last period of service with a nonwaiverable 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.

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.

Summary of Army Substance Abuse Program Rehabilitation Failure (memo), 19 May 2010, reflects the applicant's rehabilitation team met on 13 May 2010, it was determined the applicant had failed to comply with treatment plans and goals. The applicant, has continued to drink as evidenced by them having an alcohol related incident on 12 May 2010, during which the applicant was taken to the MP station and had a BAC of .17. Further rehabilitation efforts in a military environment are not practical in light of the applicant's lack of progress.

The applicant contends their parents were no longer able to care for their kids. The applicant did not submit evidence other than their statement to support the contention. There is no evidence in the AMHRR the applicant ever sought assistance before committing the misconduct, which led to the separation action under review.

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 "4." An RE code of "4" cannot be waived, and the applicant is no longer eligible for reenlistment.

The AMHRR includes a Report of Medical Examination and History, 15 June 2010, the examining medical physician noted in the comments section: Depression and anxiety.

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 reviewed the applicant's DOD and VA health records, applicant's statement, and/or civilian provider documentation and found that the applicant has the following

potentially-mitigating diagnoses/experiences: Adjustment Disorder, Major Depressive Disorder, IPV.

(2) Did the condition exist or experience occur during military service? **Yes.** The Board found that the applicant was diagnosed in service with an Adjustment Disorder, and there is evidence that the applicant experienced IPV during military service. In addition, the applicant is service connected by the VA for Major Depressive Disorder which establishes that this condition also existed during military service.

(3) Does the condition or experience actually excuse or mitigate the discharge? **Yes.** The Board determined, based on the Board Medical Advisor's opine, that the applicant's behavioral health conditions mitigate the discharge. The applicant was diagnosed in service with an Adjustment Disorder, and there is evidence that the applicant experienced IPV during military service. In addition, the applicant is service connected by the VA for Major Depressive Disorder. There is a nexus between Major Depressive Disorder and using substances for self-medication and victims of IPV may also use substances for self-medication, so the applicant's Major Depressive Disorder and experience of IPV mitigate the Alcohol Rehabilitation Failure that led to the separation.

(4) Does the condition or experience outweigh the discharge? **Yes.** After applying liberal consideration to the evidence, including the Board Medical Advisor's opine, the Board determined that the applicant's Intimate Partner Violence victimization and Major Depressive Disorder outweighed the applicant's Alcohol Rehabilitation Failure.

b. Response to Contentions:

(1) The applicant contends their parents were no longer able to care for their kids. The Board considered this contention during proceedings, but ultimately did not address the contention due to an upgrade being granted based on the applicant's Intimate Partner Violence victimization and Major Depressive Disorder outweighing the applicant's Alcohol Rehabilitation Failure.

(2) The applicant desires to rejoin the military service. The Board considered this contention and determined that a change to the applicant's characterization of service/RE code is not warranted due to the extent of the applicant's Behavioral Health diagnoses.

c. The Board determined the discharge is inequitable based on the applicant's length and quality of service, to include combat service and the circumstances surrounding the discharge (IPV and MDD diagnoses outweighing the applicant's misconduct). Therefore, the Board voted to grant relief in the form of an upgrade of the characterization of service to Honorable. The Board determined the narrative reason/SPD code and RE code were proper and equitable and voted not to change them.

d. Rationale for Decision:

(1) The Board voted to change the applicant's characterization of service to Honorable because the applicant's Intimate Partner Violence victimization and Major Depressive Disorder outweighed the applicant's Alcohol Rehabilitation Failure. Thus, the prior characterization is no longer appropriate.

ARMY DISCHARGE REVIEW BOARD CASE REPORT AND DIRECTIVE
AR20210000036

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

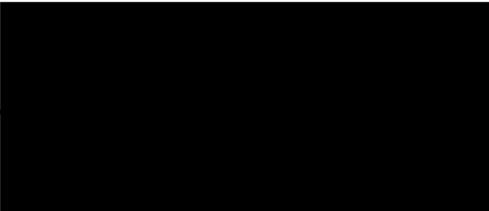
(3) The RE code will not change, as the current code is consistent with the procedural and substantive requirements of the regulation.

10. BOARD ACTION DIRECTED:

- a. Issue a New DD-214: Yes
- b. Change Characterization to: Honorable
- c. Change Reason / SPD Code to: No Change
- d. Change RE Code to: No Change
- e. Change Authority to: AR 635-200

Authenticating Official:

7/15/2025



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