

**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.

The applicant seeks relief, contending, in effect, they were diagnosed with posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD). They contend the discharge reason of "personality disorder" has caused ongoing harm in the civilian job market and fails to reflect the correct diagnosis of PTSD. The applicant contends both conditions may result in separation, but the stigma and misunderstanding surrounding "personality disorder" create significant barriers to employment; barriers absent with an accurate medical designation.

b. **Board Type and Decision:** In a records review conducted on 10 July 2025, and by a 5-0 vote, the Board denied the request upon finding the separation was both proper and equitable. However, notwithstanding the propriety of the applicant's discharge, the Board found that the applicant's DD Form 214, blocks 25, 26, 28, contain outdated entries. The Board directed the following administrative corrections and reissue of the applicant's DD Form 214, as approved by the separation authority: Block 25, separation authority changed to AR 635-200, paragraph 5-14; Block 26, separation code changed to JFV; Block 28, narrative reason for separation changed to Condition, Not a Disability.

*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:** 30 November 2007

**c. Separation Facts:**

(1) **Date of Notification of Intent to Separate:** 16 October 2007

(2) **Basis for Separation:** The applicant was informed of the following reasons: On 30 August 2007 the applicant was diagnosed with an adjustment and personality disorder. These disorders interfered with assignment and with the performance of their duties.

(3) **Recommended Characterization:** Honorable

(4) **Legal Consultation Date:** 18 October 2007

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

**(6) Separation Decision Date / Characterization:** NIF / Honorable

**4. SERVICE DETAILS:**

**a. Date / Period of Enlistment:** 17 June 2003 / 4 years

**b. Age at Enlistment / Education / GT Score:** 21 / High School Graduate / 124

**c. Highest Grade Achieved / MOS / Total Service:** E-5 / 25Q2O 7D, Multichannel Transmission Systems Operator-Maintainer / 4 years, 5 months, 14 days

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

**e. Overseas Service / Combat Service:** SWA / Iraq (11 August 2005 – 18 July 2006)

**f. Awards and Decorations:** ARCOM, AGCM, NDSM, GWOTSM, ICM, ASR, CAB

**g. Performance Ratings:** 1 January 2006 – 31 December 2006 / Successful  
1 January 2007 – 16 June 2007 / Successful

**h. Disciplinary Action(s) / Evidentiary Record:** Two Developmental Counseling Forms for findings of mental health evaluation, actions on or about 21 August 2007 (the applicant made a phone call to their congressman and spoke with a liaison where they stated “they would commit suicide if they were deployed to Iraq again,” discuss actions on 11 September 2007, (the applicant told the rear detachment NCOIC they did not want to be in the Army.)

Orders 319-1009, 15 November 2007, reflect the applicant was to be reassigned to the U.S. Army Transition Point and discharged on 30 November 2007 from the Regular Army.

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.

Enlisted Record Brief (ERB), 14 November 2007, reflects the applicant was flagged for Involuntary Separation or Discharge (Field Initiated) (BA), effective 11 September 2007; The Assignment Eligibility Availability code reflects the applicant eligible for assignment but was pending action for a specific program or school.

**i. Lost Time / Mode of Return:** None

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

**(1) Applicant provided:** None

**(2) AMHRR Listed:** Mental Status Evaluation, 30 August 2007, reflects the applicant was mentally responsible, had a clear-thinking process, and had the mental capacity to understand and participate in the proceedings. The applicant was diagnosed with personality disorder NOS (cluster b traits-primary diagnosis) and adjustment disorder. The applicant reported a pre-military history of social difficulties, opposition to authority, inconsistent mood, poor coping skills, poor judgement and recurrent impulsive behavior.

*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-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 medical authority with an adjustment disorder and personality disorder NOS (cluster B traits-primary diagnosis).

The applicant contends the discharge reason of "personality disorder" has caused ongoing harm in the civilian job market and fails to reflect the correct diagnosis of PTSD. The applicant contends both conditions may result in separation, but the stigma and misunderstanding surrounding "personality disorder" create significant barriers to employment; barriers absent with an accurate medical designation. The Board does not grant relief to gain employment or enhance employment opportunities. The AMHRR does not include any indication or evidence of arbitrary or capricious actions by the command.

The applicant contends the narrative reason for separation should change to reflect their PTSD. 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.

#### **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: PTSD, Depression, Adjustment Disorder.

(2) Did the condition exist or experience occur during military service? **Yes.** The Board found the applicant is 30 percent SC for PTSD and in-service dx's of Depression and Adjustment Disorder.

**(3)** Does the condition or experience actually excuse or mitigate the discharge? **No.** The Board determined, based on the Board Medical Advisor's opine, that the applicant's behavioral health conditions do not mitigate the discharge. The applicant was not separated for misconduct and received an honorable discharge, so medical mitigation is not available.

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

**b.** Response to Contention(s): The applicant contends the discharge reason of "personality disorder" has caused ongoing harm in the civilian job market and fails to reflect the correct diagnosis of PTSD. The applicant contends that while both conditions may result in separation, the stigma and misunderstanding surrounding "personality disorder" create significant barriers to employment that would not exist with an accurate medical designation. The Board considered this contention and determined that a change to Condition, Not a Disability is in order based on the separation regulation, AR 635-200, no longer using Personality Disorder as a narrative reason for separation.

**c.** The Board found that the applicant's DD Form 214, blocks 25, 26, 28, contain outdated entries. The Board directed the following administrative corrections and reissue of the applicant's DD Form 214, as approved by the separation authority: Block 25, separation authority changed to AR 635-200, paragraph 5-14; Block 26, separation code changed to JFV; Block 28, narrative reason for separation changed to Condition, Not a Disability.

**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:



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