

1. Applicant's Name: [REDACTED]**a. Application Date:** 26 April 2021**b. Date Received:** 26 April 2021**c. Counsel:** [REDACTED]**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 and narrative reason change (remove "drug abuse").

b. The applicant seeks relief contending, in effect, being a 33-year-old former Army Soldier and decorated combat veteran of the War on Terror. The traumatic experiences the applicant faced while in Iraq led to a diagnosis of severe post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). As a result of the applicant's psychological problems and lack of support from friends, family, and the military, the applicant turned to drugs to cope with the horrors the applicant witnessed. A year after returning from Iraq, the applicant was separated from the Army with a general (under honorable conditions). The applicant was a model Soldier whose only misconduct was because of the applicant's mental health problems, which the Army failed to recognize or properly diagnose. Accordingly, the applicant's less than honorable discharge is inequitable. The applicant requests an upgrade of the discharge from general (under honorable conditions) to honorable and to remove "drug use" as a narrative reason for discharge. Counsel and applicant further detail the contentions in the Legal Brief and the applicant's Declaration submitted with the application.

c. Board Type and Decision: In a records review conducted on 30 September 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, the circumstances surrounding the discharge (PTSD diagnoses), and post-service accomplishments. Therefore, the Board voted to grant relief in the form of an upgrade of the characterization of service to Honorable and changed to the separation authority to AR 635-200, paragraph 14-12a, the narrative reason for separation to Misconduct (Minor Infractions), with a corresponding separation code of JKN. The Board determined the reentry code is 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: Misconduct (Drug Abuse) / AR 635-200, Paragraph 14-12c (2) / JKK / RE-4 / General (Under Honorable Conditions)

b. Date of Discharge: 31 May 2006

c. Separation Facts:

(1) Date of Notification of Intent to Separate: The Acknowledgment is not in file.

(2) Basis for Separation: The unit commander informed the applicant under the provisions of AR 635-200, Chapter 14-12c, Commission of a Serious Offense, of the following reasons: The applicant had a summary court-martial conviction for one charge of absent without leave, one charge of wrongful use of marijuana, and one charge of wrongful use of cocaine. The applicant received a previous Field Grade Article 15 for the wrongful use of marijuana and being absent without leave.

(3) Recommended Characterization: General (Under Honorable Conditions)

(4) Legal Consultation Date: NIF

(5) Administrative Separation Board: NA

(6) Separation Decision Date / Characterization: 15 May 2006 / General (Under Honorable Conditions) / The separation authority approved the applicant's separation under the provisions of AR 635-200, Chapter 14-12c, Commission of a Serious Offense.

4. SERVICE DETAILS:

a. Date / Period of Enlistment: 21 October 2002 / 6 years

b. Age at Enlistment / Education / GT Score: 24 / HS Graduate / 96

c. Highest Grade Achieved / MOS / Total Service: E-4 / 14R10, Bradley Linebacker Crewman / 5 years, 2 months, 10 days

d. Prior Service / Characterizations: RA, 5 October 2000 – 20 October 2002 / HD

e. Overseas Service / Combat Service: Korea, SWA / Iraq (8 March 2004 – 8 March 2005)

f. Awards and Decorations: AGCM, NDSM, GWOTSM, KDSM, ASR / The applicant's AMHRR reflects award of the ARCOM, AAM, and GWOTEM; however, the awards are not reflected on the DD Form 214.

g. Performance Ratings: NA

h. Disciplinary Action(s) / Evidentiary Record:

(1) Applicant provided: Army Substance Abuse Program (ASAP) Enrollment form, 26 July 2005, reflects the applicant medically-referred in the ASAP. The form reflects the applicant had disciplinary problems including misuse of motor vehicle and selling stolen property. The commander suspected the applicant had an alcohol and/or other drug problem.

(2) AMHRR Listed:

(a) Military Police Report (Blotter), 5 January 2004, reflects the unit reported the applicant absent without leave.

(b) Seven Personnel Action forms reflect the applicant's duty status changed as follows:

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- From Present for Duty (PDY) to Absent Without Leave (AWOL), effective 5 January 2004
- From AWOL to PDY, effective 16 January 2004
- From PDY to AWOL, effective 13 July 2005
- From AWOL to PDY, effective 21 July 2005
- From PDY to AWOL, effective 26 September 2005
- From AWOL to Dropped From Rolls (DFR), effective 26 October 2005
- From DFR to PDY, effective 23 February 2006

(c) Criminal Investigation Division (CID) Report of Investigation - Initial Final, 20 May 2005, reflects an investigation established probable cause to believe between 8 and 9 March 2005, the applicant committed the offense of Wrongful Use of a Controlled Substance when the applicant tested positive for marijuana during a probable cause urinalysis conducted on 10 March 2005.

(d) Field Grade Record of Proceedings under Article 15, Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ), 30 June 2005, for:

- wrongfully using marijuana (between 10 February and 10 March 2005)
- failing to go at the prescribed to the appointed place of duty (27 April 2005)
- willfully disobeying a lawful command from First Lieutenant Smith (25 April 2005)
- willfully disobeying a lawful order from Sergeant (SGT) H., a noncommissioned officer (25 April 2005)
- being disrespectful in deportment toward SGT H., (25 April 2005)
- Punishment: Reduction to E-2, forfeiture of \$692 pay, and extra duty for 45 days (suspended)

(e) Army Substance Abuse Program (ASAP) Enrollment form, 26 July 2005, reflects the commander suspected the applicant had an alcohol and/or other drug problem. (The document is the second page of the one submitted by the applicant showing it was a medical referral.)

(f) Record of Trial by Summary Court-Martial, reflects on 11 April 2006, the applicant was found guilty of three specifications, consistent with the pleas:

- violating Article 86, UCMJ, for being absent from the unit (between 26 September 2005 and 23 February 2006)
- violating Article 112a, UCMJ, for wrongfully using marijuana (between 21 February and 21 March 2006)
- violating Article 112a, UCMJ, for wrongfully using cocaine (between 21 February and 21 March 2006)
- Sentenced adjudged: To be confined for 30 days and to be reduced to E-1

(g) Electronic Copy of Specimen Custody Document – Drug Testing, 27 March 2006, reflects the applicant tested positive for COC 3023 (cocaine) and THC 85 (marijuana) during a Command Directed (CO) urinalysis testing conducted on 21 March 2006.

(h) Confinement Order, 11 April 2006, reflects the applicant was ordered to confinement as a result of summary court-martial.

(i) Eight Developmental Counseling Forms for being absent without leave, willfully disobeying a superior commissioned officer, being insubordinate towards a noncommissioned officer, failing to obey an order or regulation, making a false statement to a commissioned officer, failing to be at your appointed place of duty, and being in debt.

i. Lost Time / Mode of Return: 5 months, 17 days:

- AWOL, 5 January 2004 – 15 January 2004 / Surrendered to Military Authorities
- AWOL, 13 July 2005 – 20 July 2005 / Obtained by CID
- AWOL, 26 September 2005 – 22 February 2006 / Surrendered to Military Authorities
- Confinement, 11 April 2006, by summary court-martial not reflected on the DD Form 214

j. Behavioral Health Condition(s): The following documents have been provided to the ARBA Medical Advisor, if applicable. See “**Board Discussion and Determination**” for Medical Advisor Details.

(1) Applicant provided:

(a) Report of Mental Status Evaluation, 14 March 2006, reflects the applicant was psychologically cleared for any administrative actions deemed appropriate by the command. The applicant could understand and participate in administrative proceedings; was mentally responsible; and met medical retention requirements. The clinical psychologist diagnosed the applicant with adjustment disorder with disturbance of emotions and conduct, polysubstance abuse, in remission per applicant, and Axis II: diagnosis deferred.

(b) Report of Medical History, 3 May 2006, reflects the examining medical physician noted in the comments section: IED incident in Iraq, no previous evaluation; anxiety; depression; insomnia, counseling; medications; and [illegible] care / drug use.

(c) The Veterans Benefits Administration letter, 6 February 2009, reflects the applicant reported in 2005, after an incident in Iraq when a roadside bomb hit the vehicle, the applicant was traveling in, the applicant was transported to Germany and hospitalized for two days. The Polytrauma Clinic referred the applicant for a neuropsychological evaluation because of the applicant's history of traumatic brain injury (TBI). The applicant reported suffering two other brain injuries, one before deployment and another after discharge. The applicant was diagnosed with PTSD related to the applicant's experiences in Iraq, major depression, alcohol dependence, and polysubstance abuse.

(d) Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) letter, 19 March 2009, reflects a nurse practitioner indicated the applicant was clinically diagnosed with PTSD, and described the applicant's medical history, including exposure to an improvised explosive device.

(e) Department of Veterans Affairs letter, 15 April 2009, reflects the applicant had returned to treatment at PTSD Outpatient Services Team (POST). The applicant made some progress on insight and maintained sobriety, but was struggling with symptoms of PTSD, including elevated anxiety, sleep disruption, and vivid memories of the applicant's war zone experiences in Iraq.

(f) Progress Notes, 3 February 2011, reflects the applicant was diagnosed with alcohol dependence; marijuana dependence; PTSD, and TBI.

(g) VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System letter, 27 April 2011, provides a summary of the applicant's participation in Cognitive Processing Therapy groups, therapy found to be effective for PTSD and other corollary symptoms following traumatic events.

(h) Volunteers of America, Greater Los Angeles letter, 3 May 2011, reflects the applicant is enrolled in the Hollywood Center, entering treatment on 1 February 2011. The center is a 9-month to one-year residential program which specializes in young returning veterans. The program provides group and therapies to address issues common to veterans, such as substance abuse and mental health.

(2) **AMHRR Listed:** MSE and Report of Medical History as described in previous paragraph 4j(1).

5. APPLICANT-PROVIDED EVIDENCE: Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty; Application for the Review of Discharge; Legal Brief with all listed attachments 1 through 30; discharge orders; Enlisted Record Brief, and List of Attachments. (The List of Attachments lists the DD Form 293 (Application for the Review of Discharge) as "Attachment 1"; however, "Attachment 1" is the Legal Brief Addendum to DD Form 293.)

6. POST SERVICE ACCOMPLISHMENTS: The applicant is receiving treatment for PTSD and no longer needs drugs or alcohol to cope with the applicant's mental health issues.

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 600-85, (The Army Substance Abuse Program), paragraph 10-12a defines the Limited Use Policy and states unless waived under the circumstances listed in paragraph 10-13d, Limited Use Policy prohibits the use by the government of protected evidence against a Soldier in actions under the UCMJ or on the issue of characterization of service in administrative proceedings. Additionally, the policy limits the characterization of discharge to "Honorable" if protected evidence is used. Protected evidence under this policy includes results of command-directed drug or alcohol testing that are inadmissible under the MRE.

e. 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) Paragraph 3-8a states a Soldier is entitled to an honorable characterization of service if limited-use evidence (see AR 600-85) is initially introduced by the Government in the

discharge proceedings, and the discharge is based upon those proceedings. The separation authority will consult with the servicing Judge Advocate in cases involving limited use evidence.

(5) Chapter 14 establishes policy and prescribes procedures for separating members for misconduct. Specific categories include minor disciplinary infractions, a pattern of misconduct, and commission of a serious offense, to include abuse of illegal drugs, convictions by civil authorities and desertion or being absent without leave. Action will be taken to separate a member for misconduct when it is clearly established that rehabilitation is impractical or unlikely to succeed.

(6) Paragraph 14-3 prescribes a discharge under other than honorable conditions is normally appropriate for a Soldier discharged under this chapter. However, the separation authority may direct a general discharge if such is merited by the Soldier's overall record.

(7) Paragraph 14-12c(2) terms abuse of illegal drugs as serious misconduct. It continues; however, by recognizing relevant facts may mitigate the nature of the offense. Therefore, a single drug abuse offense may be combined with one or more minor disciplinary infractions or incidents of other misconduct and processed for separation under paragraph 14-12a or 14-12b as appropriate.

(8) 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.

f. 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 "JKK" as the appropriate code to assign enlisted Soldiers who are discharged under the provisions of Army Regulation 635-200, Chapter 14, misconduct (drug abuse).

g. 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-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.

a. 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.

b. The available evidence reflects the applicant's commander informed the applicant of the commander's intent to separate the applicant from the Army under the provisions of AR 635-200, Chapter 14-12c, Commission of a Serious Offense, for having a summary court-martial conviction for one charge of absent without leave, one charge of wrongful use of marijuana, and one charge of wrongful use of cocaine. The applicant received a previous Field Grade Article 15 for the wrongful use of marijuana and being absent without leave. The separation authority approved the separation under AR 635-200, Chapter 14-12c, Commission of a Serious Offense.

c. The applicant's separation packet includes an electronic DD Form 2624 (Specimen Custody Document for Drug Testing), which show the urinalysis test coded "CO," which indicates "Command Directed Testing." The government introduced these documents into the discharge process. The Command Directed Testing is limited use information defined in AR 600-85. Use of this information mandates an award of an honorable discharge.

d. The applicant contends the narrative reason for the discharge needs to be changed. Based on the applicant's AMHRR, someone in the discharge process erroneously entered on the applicant's DD Form 214, block 25, "AR 635-200, Para 14-12c(2)." The discharge packet confirms the separation authority approved the discharge under the provisions AR 635-200, Chapter 14, Paragraph 14-12c, Commission of Serious Offense. Army Regulations state a Soldier separated under this provision will receive a narrative reason of Misconduct (Serious Offense) and a Separation Code of "JKQ." 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.

e. The applicant contends PTSD, depression, and family issues, affected behavior leading to the discharge. The applicant provided in-service medical documents reflecting the applicant underwent a mental status evaluation (MSE) on 14 March 2006, which indicates the applicant was mentally responsible. The clinical psychologist diagnosed the applicant with adjustment disorder with disturbance of emotions and conduct, polysubstance abuse, in remission per applicant, and Axis II: diagnosis deferred. The Report of Medical History reflects the examining physician noted in the comments section: IED incident in Iraq, no previous evaluation, anxiety, depression, insomnia, counseling, medications, and drug use. The applicant provided post-service medical documents reflecting diagnoses: PTSD, TBI, alcohol dependence, and marijuana dependence. The applicant provided a third-party letter from the applicant's parent, which described the applicant's change in behavior after returning from combat to support the applicant's contention. The applicant's AMHRR contains the MSE and Report of Medical History as described. The separation authority considered the documents in the applicant's AMHRR.

f. The applicant contends the applicant did not receive any assistance from the command regarding the applicant's mental health issues. The AMHRR does not include any indication or evidence of arbitrary or capricious actions by the command.

g. The applicant contends good service, including a combat tour. The Board considered the applicant's service accomplishments and the quality of service according to the DODI 1332.28.

h. The applicant contends an upgrade of the discharge would allow veterans benefits. Eligibility for veteran's benefits does not fall within the purview of the Army Discharge Review Board. Accordingly, the applicant should contact a local Department of Veterans Affairs office for further assistance.

i. The applicant contends receiving treatment for PTSD and no longer needing drugs or alcohol to cope with mental health issues. 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 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 NOS, various Adjustment Disorders subsumed by PTSD.

(2) Did the condition exist or experience occur during military service? **Yes.** The Board found the applicant is 100 percent SC for PTSD.

(3) Does the condition or experience actually excuse or mitigate the discharge? **Yes.** The Board applied liberal consideration and opined that a review of the available information reflects the applicant has BH conditions that mitigates the misconduct outlined in the BoS. The applicant is 100 percent SC for PTSD and has additional potentially mitigating diagnoses of Depression NOS, various Adjustment Disorders subsumed by PTSD. Given the nexus between PTSD and the use of substances to self-medicate and PTSD and PTSD and avoid behavior, the applicant's misconduct characterized by AWOL and wrongful use of marijuana and cocaine is mitigated by the SC BH condition.

(4) Does the condition or experience outweigh the discharge? **Yes.** After applying liberal consideration to the evidence, including the Board Medical Advisor opine, the Board determined that the applicant's PTSD outweighed the applicant's medically mitigated AWOL and illegal drug use offenses.

b. Prior Decisions Cited: None

c. Response to Contention(s):

(1) The applicant contends PTSD, depression, and family issues, affected behavior leading to the discharge. The Board liberally considered this contention and determined that it was valid due to the applicant's Post Traumatic Stress Disorder outweighing the applicant's medically mitigated AWOL and drug offenses. Therefore, a discharge upgrade is warranted.

(2) The applicant contends the applicant did not receive any assistance from the command regarding the applicant's mental health issues. The Board considered this contention and determined that the applicant official medical records reflect that the applicant received health services while in service.

(3) The applicant contends an upgrade of the discharge would allow veterans benefits. The Board considered this contention and determined that eligibility for Veteran's benefits, to include educational benefits under the Post-9/11 or Montgomery GI Bill, healthcare or VA loans,

do not fall within the purview of the Army Discharge Review Board. Accordingly, the applicant should contact a local office of the Department of Veterans Affairs for further assistance.

d. The Board determined the discharge is inequitable based on the applicant's length and quality of service, to include combat service, the circumstances surrounding the discharge (PTSD diagnoses), and post-service accomplishments. Therefore, the Board voted to grant relief in the form of an upgrade of the characterization of service to Honorable and changed to the separation authority to AR 635-200, paragraph 14-12a, the narrative reason for separation to Misconduct (Minor Infractions), with a corresponding separation code of JKN. The Board determined the reentry code is proper and equitable and voted not to change it

e. Rationale for Decision:

(1) The Board voted to change the applicant's characterization of service to Honorable because the applicant's Post Traumatic Stress Disorder outweighed the applicant's medically mitigated misconduct of AWOL and illegal drug abuse. Thus, the prior characterization is no longer appropriate.

(2) The Board voted to change the reason for discharge to Misconduct (Minor Infractions) under the same pretexts, thus the reason for discharge is no longer appropriate. The SPD code associated with the new reason for discharge is JKN.

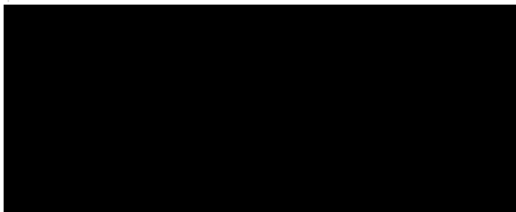
(3) The RE code will not change, as the current code is consistent with the procedural and substantive requirements of the regulation.

10. BOARD ACTION DIRECTED:

- a. Issue a New DD-214 / Separation Order: Yes
- b. Change Characterization to: Honorable
- c. Change Reason / SPD code to: Misconduct (Minor Infractions)/JKN
- d. Change RE Code to: No Change
- e. Change Authority to: No Change

Authenticating Official:

10/9/2025



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