

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.

b. The applicant seeks relief contending, in effect, they believe their Army service and civilian life warrants an "honorable" discharge. They hope one poor judgment in their youth does not affect the rest of their life. The applicant is thankful they were the only one hurt by their decision. The applicant pleads for a chance to continue their career in the Army. The applicant was one of the youngest 92Ys, Supply Specialist, in their unit, and excelled in their field, making it possible for successful training exercises and deployment. While deployed to Iraq, the applicant earned the possibility for a promotion. They saved the lives of four of their team members by skillfully maneuvering a high mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicle (HMMWV) after an explosion from an improvised explosive device (IED). On Valentines night of 2007, the applicant entered the quarters of their significant other, which was prohibited. The applicant received disciplinary action and regretted their decision but was able to recover from their mistake. One night after receiving weapon (5.56mm semiautomatic M4 Carbine) from the arms room, the applicant headed to their quarters. Because they were excited with the new equipment (PEQ 2A) mounted to the applicant's weapon, they wanted to test it. While testing the weapon, the applicant pulled the trigger. The applicant further described the steps for testing the weapon, which caused the weapon to fire. The applicant was not aware a round was in the weapon, and to their greatest surprise a round was fired. They immediately dropped the weapon and fell to their knees. Their main thought was, "How did a round get into their weapon?" "Was it from the arms room?" The applicant could not believe what had just happened. The next morning, the applicant was questioned but froze because they were afraid, they could not defend themselves with a response. The applicant was young and scared and did not even tell their story. The interviewer asked the applicant if they tried to commit suicide, and they responded with a "yes." This was not true based on the applicant's Christian beliefs and he never had any suicidal tendencies, nor after leaving the Army. Given the circumstances, the applicant believed answering yes and accepting a discharge was beneficial to everyone because the applicant believed they were a burden. The unit only had two months left in Iraq, but they believed their back was against the wall, they could recover from this, and this was the only suitable option, with the condition they could reenlist. The applicant believed they would be able to reenlist within six months but found out they needed a waiver. The applicant regrets their decision because they loved the Army and wanted to serve for 20 years. Even though their DD Form 214 states, "Personality disorder," this could not be further from the truth. Since the Army, the applicant has held respectable positions within society as a loan officer, working at two banks, and received promotions within six months of employment. They are applying to the police department to continue to be an asset to the community. Their goal is to serve the country in the military. The applicant has happily married for over three years, purchased a home, never defaulted on any loans, never been arrested, or involved in any felonies, misdemeanor, or bad conduct. They have kept out of trouble and intend to reenlist in the Army, but this time with caution and proper understanding to what they sign and how to respond to tough situations. In two years, they will graduate with a bachelor's degree in finance.

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

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

(Board member names available upon request)

3. DISCHARGE DETAILS:

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

b. Date of Discharge: 21 September 2006

c. Separation Facts:

(1) Date of Notification of Intent to Separate: 23 August 2006

(2) Basis for Separation: The applicant was informed of the following reasons: It was determined by a clinical psychologist the applicant's pattern of behavior displayed a complete disregard for their safety in forward operating base in a theater of war. This behavior and they not wanting mental health support was a clear indicator of a personality disorder, with borderline and narcissistic features. Further the clinical psychologist recommended the applicant be separated in accordance with AR 635-200, Chapter 5, paragraph 5-13 personality disorder, not otherwise specified (NOS) for their safety and the benefit of the Army. In addition, the applicant committed the following misconduct: violation of a lawful general order, to wit: General Order Number 1, by wrongfully visiting the living quarters of a member of the opposite gender, on numerous occasions for failing to go to their appointed place of duty; and for willfully discharging a firearm under such circumstances as to endanger human life.

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

(4) Legal Consultation Date: 24 August 2006

(5) Administrative Separation Board: NA

(6) Separation Decision Date / Characterization: 24 August 2006 / General (Under Honorable Conditions)

4. SERVICE DETAILS:

a. Date / Period of Enlistment: 15 January 2004 / 3 years

b. Age at Enlistment / Education / GT Score: 18 / HS Graduate / 91

c. Highest Grade Achieved / MOS / Total Service: E-3 / 92Y10, Unit Supply Specialist / 2 years, 8 months, 7 days

d. Prior Service / Characterizations: None

e. Overseas Service / Combat Service: SWA / Iraq (10 December 2005 – 11 September 2006)

f. Awards and Decorations: NDSM, GWOTSM, ICM, ASR, OSR

g. Performance Ratings: NA

h. Disciplinary Action(s) / Evidentiary Record:

(1) Field Grade Record of Proceedings under Article 15, Uniform Code of Military Justice, 21 February 2006, for, in Iraq, wrongfully violating a lawful general order, by wrongfully visiting the living quarters of a member of the opposite gender (14 February 2006). The punishment consisted of a reduction to E-2 (suspended), forfeiture of \$713 pay, and extra duty for 45 days.

(2) Record of Supplementary Action Under Article 15, UCMJ, 10 April 2006, reflects the suspended portion of the punishment imposed on 24 February 2006, was vacated for Article 86, failure to go at the time prescribed to their appointed place of duty (4 March 2006).

(3) Critical Incident Report (CIR), 15 July 2006, reflects on 15 July 2006, the applicant negligently discharged their weapon. The applicant provided a Sworn Statement admitting to discharging the weapon in an attempt to commit suicide.

(4) Memorandum, subject: [Applicant], 23 July 2006, reflects the applicant underwent a clinical evaluation and was found to have no diagnosis, was not homicidal or suicidal, and knew right from wrong.

(5) Informal AR 15-6 Investigation Findings and Recommendations, 27 July 2006, reflects the investigating officer (IO) found the applicant:

(a) The applicant is qualified and last fired their weapon in December 2005 during RSOI in Kuwait.

(b) There was a negligent discharge during an attempted suicide.

(c) Because of the nature of this event, there was nothing procedurally could have been done to prevent this incident

(d) The IO recommended the applicant receive at a minimum, a General Officer Letter of Admonishment and seek Mental Health care; all Soldiers in the grade of E-4 have a roommate; and the unit conduct Suicide Awareness refresher training.

(6) Field Grade Record of Proceedings under Article 15, Uniform Code of Military Justice, 23 August 2006, for wrongfully and willfully discharging a firearm (23 July 2006), and failed to go at the time prescribed to their appointed place of duty (11, 15, 28, and 29 March 2006). The punishment consisted of a reduction to E-1, forfeiture of \$636 pay per month for two months.

(7) Three Developmental Counseling Forms for violating General Order Number 1, negligently discharging a firearm in the living area, and pending separation because of mental health diagnosis.

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

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

(1) **Applicant provided:** None

(2) **AMHRR Listed:** Memorandum, subject: [Applicant], 26 July 2006, reflects the applicant underwent a clinical evaluation. The psychologist diagnosed the applicant with occupational problems, depressive disorder, not otherwise specified (NOS), anti-social/borderline personality features, and a global assessment score of 55. The applicant was at high risk of harming themselves. The psychologist requested the command take various precautions to prevent the applicant from committing self-harm.

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; Online Application.

6. POST SERVICE ACCOMPLISHMENTS: The applicant:

- has held respectable positions within society as a loan officer, working at two banks, and receiving promotions within six months of employment\
- in September, they are applying to the police department, with their goal to serve the country in the Military
- has been happily married for over three years
- purchased a home
- never defaulted on any loans
- never been arrested, or involved in any felonies, misdemeanor, or bad conduct
- in two years, they will graduate with a Bachelor's Degree in Finance

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.

a. The applicant requests a narrative reason change. The applicant's Army Military Human Resources Record (AMHRR), the issues, and documents submitted with the application were carefully reviewed.

b. 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: Anti-Social/Borderline Personality Features.

c. The applicant contends they did not have a personality disorder. The applicant's AMHRR reflects the applicant underwent a clinical evaluation on 26 July 2006. The psychologist diagnosed the applicant with occupational problems, depressive disorder, not otherwise specified (NOS), anti-social/borderline personality features, and a global assessment score of 55. The separation authority considered the evaluation.

d. The applicant contends youth and immaturity affected the applicant's behavior at the time of the discharge. The AMHRR shows the applicant met entrance qualification standards, including age.

e. 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.

f. 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.

g. 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.

h. The applicant contends holding respectable positions within society and receiving promotions; pursuing employment at the police department, with a goal to rejoin the military; being happily married; purchasing a home; having no issues with law enforcement; and they will soon graduate with a bachelor's degree. 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: Depressive Disorder NOS, PTSD.

(2) Did the condition exist or experience occur during military service? **Yes.** The Board found that the applicant was diagnosed in service with Depressive Disorder NOS and is service connected by the VA for PTSD.

(3) Does the condition or experience actually excuse or mitigate the discharge? **Partially.** The Board determined, based on the Board Medical Advisor's opine, that the applicant's behavioral health conditions partially mitigate the discharge. The applicant was diagnosed in service with Depressive Disorder NOS and is service connected by the VA for PTSD. The applicant was discharged for a personality disorder in accordance with the separation regulations at the time. The additional misconduct listed in the separation is partially mitigated by the applicant's BH conditions. Given the nexus between PTSD, Depressive

Disorder NOS, and avoidance, the FTRs are mitigated. An investigation revealed that the applicant's willful discharge of a firearm occurred during a suicide attempt, so the applicant's Depressive Disorder NOS directly contributed to the discharge of a weapon and it is mitigated. Wrongfully visiting the living quarters of a member of the opposite gender is not mitigated by Depressive Disorder NOS or PTSD since neither condition interferes with the ability to distinguish between right and wrong and act in accordance with the right. The applicant has an HD indicating that the proper mitigation has already been applied. Given a change in regulations since the applicant's separation, a change to the narrative reason is warranted.

(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 narrative reason for separation should change due to AR 635-200 no longer using Personality Disorder as a narrative reason for separation.

b. Response to Contention(s):

(1) The applicant contends they did not have a personality disorder. The Board considered this contention and determined that the applicant's narrative reason for separation should change due to AR 635-200 no longer using Personality Disorder as a narrative reason for separation. The validity of the applicant's diagnosis is not relevant to this decision.

(2) The applicant contends youth and immaturity affected the applicant's behavior at the time of the discharge. The Board considered this contention during proceedings, but ultimately did not address the contention due to an upgrade being granted based on changes to AR 635-200.

(3) The applicant contends good service, including a combat tour. The Board considered this contention during proceedings, but ultimately did not address the contention due to an upgrade being granted based on changes to AR 635-200.

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

(5) The applicant contends holding respectable positions within society and receiving promotions; pursuing employment at the police department, with a goal to rejoin the military; being happily married; purchasing a home; having no issues with law enforcement; and they will soon graduate with a bachelor's degree. The Board considered this contention during proceedings, but ultimately did not address the contention due to an upgrade being granted based on changes to AR 635-200.

c. The Board determined the narrative reason for the applicant's separation is inequitable based on the separation regulation, AR 635-200, no longer using Personality Disorder as a 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.

ARMY DISCHARGE REVIEW BOARD CASE REPORT AND DIRECTIVE

AR2021000084

d. Rationale for Decision:

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

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

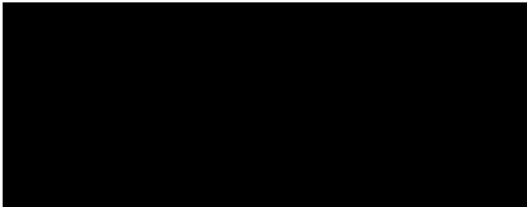
(3) The RE code will not change, as the current code is consistent with the procedural and substantive requirements of the regulation.

10. BOARD ACTION DIRECTED:

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

Authenticating Official:

9/23/2025



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