

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, the diagnosis of a "personality disorder" was and is inaccurate. In preparation for a second deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the applicant began to have anxiety attacks and noticed they were becoming depressed. Prior to this, the applicant had no mental health issues requiring evaluation or treatment. While seeking counseling through Military OneSource, the applicant's first sergeant discovered this and ordered the applicant to seek help through the Hunter Army Airfield Mental Health Clinic. After a few minutes at the clinic, the applicant was told they were potentially "bipolar" and prescribed Seroquel, an anti-psychotic medication. The applicant believed it was not the right medication and tried to not take it, but their chain of command ordered them to dose regularly during duty hours. The applicant was told failure to do so would result in an Article 15. Whether it was the medication, which the applicant believed they were improperly given, or the continued depression and anxiety, their mental state collapsed, and they attempted to commit suicide. The applicant was escorted to the Fort Stewart psychiatric ward but was released the next morning after speaking with the psychiatrist. The applicant attempted suicide again. Upon awaking a week later, the applicant found themselves back at the psychiatric ward. The applicant was confined at the psychiatric ward for more than 40 days and was only able to speak with the psychiatrist on one occasion for a couple of minutes. The psychiatrist told the applicant they almost cost the psychiatrist their job by attempting suicide again after being released, and the psychiatrist would make sure the applicant would "pay for it." Soon after, the applicant's commander told them, despite the applicant's plea to stay in the Army, the applicant would be discharged because of having a "personality disorder" as diagnosed by the psychiatrist. The applicant has no bitterness towards the Army and is proud of their service to the country. The applicant only wanted to have the false and stigmatizing "personality disorder" characterization changed to a Chapter 5-17 (Other Designated Physical or Mental Conditions), which accurately reflects the acute distress they experienced at that period of time.

b. Board Type and Decision: In a records review conducted on 1 April 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, and 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:

- a. block 25, separation authority changed to AR 635-200, paragraph 5-14,
- b. block 26, separation code changed to JFV,
- c. block 28, narrative reason for separation changed to Condition, Not a Disability.

*Please see **Board Discussion and Determination** section for more details regarding the Board's decision. Board member names are 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: 16 March 2007

c. Separation Facts:

(1) Date of Notification of Intent to Separate: 28 February 2007

(2) Basis for Separation: The applicant was informed of the following reasons: The applicant's mental evaluation indicated a personality disorder.

(3) Recommended Characterization: Honorable

(4) Legal Consultation Date: 2 March 2007

(5) Administrative Separation Board: NA

(6) Separation Decision Date / Characterization: 6 March 2007 / Honorable

4. SERVICE DETAILS:

a. Date / Period of Enlistment: 7 May 2003 / 6 years

b. Age at Enlistment / Education / GT Score: 17 / AED / 123

c. Highest Grade Achieved / MOS / Total Service: E-4 / 15R10, Attack Helicopter Repairer / 3 years, 10 months, 10 days

d. Prior Service / Characterizations: None

e. Overseas Service / Combat Service: SWA / Iraq (22 January 2005 – 14 January 2006)

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

g. Performance Ratings: NA

h. Disciplinary Action(s) / Evidentiary Record: Developmental Counseling Form, 28 February 2007, for attempting to commit suicide on two occasions.

Enlisted Record Brief (ERB), 8 March 2007, reflects the applicant was flagged for Involuntary Separation or Discharge (Field Initiated) (BA), effective 8 March 2007. The Assignment Eligibility Availability code reflects the applicant received an approved deletion of assignment for operational reasons.

i. Lost Time / Mode of Return: None

j. Behavioral Health Condition(s):

(1) Applicant provided: Manpower and Reserve Affairs letter, 1 May 2012, reflects the applicant records indicated the applicant was deployed on a contingency operation and was separated from the Army after 11 September 2001, based on a personality disorder. The letter informed the applicant if they did not have a medical screening, they were entitled to one and to contact the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). If the applicant wanted a change in reason to contact the Army Board for Correction of Military Records.

Vet Center, 23 May 2012, reflects the Honolulu Vet Center had been treating the applicant from 17 June 2011 to present. The applicant's history was one of significant childhood abuse, family chaos, and abandonment. While the applicant's issues did not stem from military-related post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or traumatic brain injury (TBI), neither did they represent the full DSM IV-TR criteria for a personality disorder.

(2) AMHRR Listed: Report of Mental Status Evaluation, 27 February 2007, reflects the applicant could understand and participate in administrative proceedings, was mentally responsible, and met medical retention requirements. The applicant was admitted to the hospital for a comprehensive psychiatric evaluation. The applicant was diagnosed with alcohol dependence, alcohol intoxication, personality disorder, and overdose.

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 Correction of Military Record; Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty; self-authored statement; Manpower and Reserve Affairs letter; and Vet Center letter.

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

Evidence in the applicant's Army Military Human Resource Record (AMHRR) confirms the applicant was diagnosed by a competent medical authority with a personality disorder

The applicant contends they did not have a personality disorder but had anxiety, depression, and possibly a bipolar disorder. The applicant provided a medical document reflecting a doctor indicated while the applicant's issues did not stem from military-related PTSD or TBI, neither did they represent the full DSM IV-TR criteria for a personality disorder. The applicant's AMHRR shows the applicant underwent a mental status evaluation (MSE) on 27 February 2007, which indicates the applicant was mentally responsible. The applicant was diagnosed with alcohol dependence, alcohol intoxication, personality disorder, and an overdose. The separation authority considered the MSE.

The applicant contends the narrative reason for separation needs to be changed to the narrative reason for Chapter 5, paragraph 5-17 [Condition, Not a Disability]. The applicant was separated under Chapter 5, paragraph 5-13, AR 635-200 provisions with an honorable discharge. The narrative reason specified by Army Regulations for a discharge under this paragraph is

"Personality Disorder," and the separation code is "JFX." Army Regulation 635-8 (Separation Processing and Documents) governs the preparation of the DD Form 214 and dictates the entry of the narrative reason for separation, entered in block 28, and separation code, entered in block 26 of the form, will be as listed in tables 2-2 or 2-3 of AR 635-5-1 (Separation Program Designator (SPD) Codes). The regulation stipulates no deviation is authorized. There is no provision for entry of any other reason under this regulation.

The applicant contends the psychiatrist diagnosed them with a personality disorder for revenge. There is no evidence in the AMHRR the applicant contested the diagnosis. The applicant's AMHRR does not include any indication or evidence of arbitrary or capricious actions by the command.

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? **No.** A review of the records reflects the applicant was not separated for misconduct, rather the applicant was separated under provisions of AR 635-200 Chapter 5-13 for Personality Disorder. The applicant refutes the diagnosis and provides a letter from a Vet Center Provider dated 23 May 2012, that also refutes the diagnosis. A change to Condition, Not a Disability is warranted based on updates to the separation regulation, AR 635-200.

(2) Did the condition exist, or experience occur during military service? **N/A**

(3) Does the condition or experience actually excuse or mitigate the discharge? **N/A**

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

b. Response to Contention(s):

(1) The applicant contends the narrative reason for separation needs to be changed to the narrative reason for Chapter 5, paragraph 5-17 [Condition, Not a Disability]. The Board considered this contention and determined that it was valid based on changes to the separation regulation, AR 635-200.

(2) The applicant contends they did not have a personality disorder but had anxiety, depression, and possibly a bipolar disorder. The Board considered this contention but ultimately did not address it after determining that a change to the narrative reason was warranted based on updates to AR 635-200.

(3) The applicant contends the psychiatrist diagnosed them with a personality disorder for revenge. The Board considered this contention but ultimately did not address it after determining that a change to the narrative reason was warranted based on updates to AR 635-200.

c. 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, and 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,

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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 based on updates to the separation regulation. The SPD code associated with the new reason for discharge is JFV.

(3) The RE code will not change given the BH diagnosis. 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

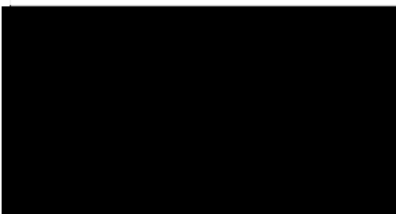
c. Change Reason / SPD Code to: Condition, Not a Disability / JFV

d. Change RE Code to: No Change

e. Change Authority to: AR 635-200

Authenticating Official:

4/8/2025



AWOL – Absent Without Leave
AMHRR – Army Military Human
Resource Record
BCD – Bad Conduct Discharge
BH – Behavioral Health
CG – Company Grade Article 15
CID – Criminal Investigation
Division
ELS – Entry Level Status
FG – Field Grade Article 15

GD – General Discharge
HS – High School
HD – Honorable Discharge
IADT – Initial Active Duty Training
MP – Military Police
MST – Military Sexual Trauma
N/A – Not applicable
NCO – Noncommissioned Officer
NIF – Not in File
NOS – Not Otherwise Specified

OAD – Ordered to Active Duty
OBH (I) – Other Behavioral
Health (Issues)
OMPF – Official Military
Personnel File
PTSD – Post-Traumatic Stress
Disorder
RE – Re-entry
SCM – Summary Court Martial
SPCM – Special Court Martial

SPD – Separation Program
Designator
TBI – Traumatic Brain Injury
UNC – Uncharacterized
Discharge
UOTHC – Under Other Than
Honorable Conditions
VA – Department of Veterans
Affairs