

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 and reentry (RE) code change.

The applicant contends, in effect, recently contacted regarding the possibility of qualifying for a change in the reason for their discharge of Personality Disorder. Since the applicant's discharge, military and private doctors have evaluated the applicant and believed the applicant did not have a personality disorder. In July 2009, the Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS) evaluated the applicant to reenter the Army through Officer Candidate School (OCS). The applicant was informed the Army was no longer accepting waivers for personality disorder the day they were going to sign their contract. It has been three years, and the applicant still hopes to rejoin the Army. The applicant desires a narrative reason change and an RE code change, which would be better than three. The applicant further details the contentions in evidence in related cases.

b. Board Type and Decision: In a records review conducted on 3 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, 28, contain erroneous 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 **Board Discussion and Determination** section 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: 20 March 2007

c. Separation Facts:

(1) Date of Notification of Intent to Separate: 13 February 2007

(2) Basis for Separation: The applicant was informed of the following reason: The applicant was diagnosed with dysthymic disorder and personality disorder.

(3) Recommended Characterization: Honorable

(4) Legal Consultation Date: On 13 February 2007, the applicant waived legal counsel.

(5) Administrative Separation Board: NA

(6) Separation Decision Date / Characterization: 23 February 2007 / Honorable

4. SERVICE DETAILS:

a. Date / Period of Enlistment: 11 May 2005 / 5 years

b. Age at Enlistment / Education / GT Score: 21 / 60 or more hours College / 111

c. Highest Grade Achieved / MOS / Total Service: E-3 / 11B1P, Infantryman / 1 year, 10 months, 10 days

d. Prior Service / Characterizations: None

e. Overseas Service / Combat Service: Hawaii / Iraq (7 August 2006 – 19 January 2007)

f. Awards and Decorations: AAM, AGCM, NDSM, GWOTSM, ICM, ASR, OSR, CIB, OSB

g. Performance Ratings: NA

h. Disciplinary Action(s) / Evidentiary Record: Enlisted Record Brief (ERB), 8 March 2007, reflects the applicant was flagged for Adverse Action (AA), effective 1 October 2006, and Involuntary Separation or Discharge (Field Initiated) (BA), effective 21 October 2006; was ineligible for reenlistment because of Other; prohibitions not otherwise identified (9X). The applicant was reduced from E-3 to E-2 effective 3 October 2006.

Two Developmental Counseling Forms, 21 October 2006, and 7 February 2007, for pending separation for personality disorder.

i. Lost Time / Mode of Return: None

j. Behavioral Health Condition(s):

(1) Applicant provided: Report of Mental Status Evaluation, 14 October 2006, reflects the applicant was cleared for any administrative actions deemed appropriate by the command. The applicant could understand and participate in administrative proceedings, could appreciate the difference between right and wrong, and met medical retention requirements. The applicant was diagnosed with dysthymic disorder, alcohol abuse (by history), and personality disorder, not otherwise specified (NOS), with borderline personality traits.

Report of Mental Status Evaluation, 14 February 2007, reflects the applicant was cleared for any administrative actions deemed appropriate by the command. The psychiatrist indicated the applicant did not have a personality disorder and appeared to have had a diagnosis of mood disorder, not otherwise specified (NOS), and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). The psychiatrist recommended separation under the provisions of Chapter 5-17 instead of 5-13.

Transportation Security Administration, Comprehensive Health Services, INC, Mental Health Further Evaluation, 9 October 2007, reflects diagnoses of PTSD versus personality disorder and relationship problems. The evaluator indicated the applicant's prognosis was excellent.

The Licensed Clinical Social Worker letter, 22 March 2010, reflects a social worker had provided mental health clinical treatment for the then active duty Soldier from October 2006 to January 2007. The applicant had mental health issues, but in the social worker's opinion, they were primarily because of domestic unrest within the marriage. The applicant was referred to a Mental Health Fitness Team program while in Iraq. The social worker diagnosed the applicant with adjustment disorder with mixed depression and anxiety. The social worker has been in contact with the applicant since the applicant's discharge and believes the applicant continues to display exceptional leadership and personal characteristics as well as complete a bachelor's degree, which would make the applicant an asset. The social worker believes the applicant was a squared away Soldier who would have more than likely remained on active duty had they not had the conflict with their spouse about being deployed and away.

Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) letter, 17 June 2013, reflects the counseling psychologist opined the applicant did not fit the diagnostic criteria for a personality disorder, nor did they fit the criteria for PTSD. The applicant most likely had an adjustment disorder with anxiety after their discharge from the Army.

(2) AMHRR Listed: MSE, 14 October 2006, as described in previous paragraph 4j(1).

The ARBA's medical advisor reviewed DoD and VA medical records, including documents listed in 4j(1) and (2) above.

5. APPLICANT-PROVIDED EVIDENCE: Two Applications for Correction of Military Record; Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty; self-authored statement; medical records, including two Reports of Mental Status Evaluations and various post military service mental health evaluations; four third-party character references; certifications; letters of employment; résumé; academic transcript; Standard Form 50; Letter of Recognition; M&RA letter; and ADRB Decision Docket Number AR20120016803.

6. POST SERVICE ACCOMPLISHMENTS: The applicant has maintained employment with federal agencies; obtained a bachelor's degree and is pursuing an engineering degree, with a minor in business; has been teaching martial arts for four years; and is working towards rejoining the military as an officer.

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.

(3) Chapter 3, Section II provides the authorized types of characterization of service or description of separation.

(4) 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.

(5) Chapter 5 provides for the basic separation of enlisted personnel for the convenience of the government.

(6) 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.

(7) 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-1 Applies to: Person completing his or her term of active service who is considered qualified to reenter the U.S. Army. Eligibility: Qualified for enlistment if all other criteria are met.

RE-3 Applies to: Person who is not considered fully qualified for reentry or continuous service at time of separation, but disqualification is waiverable. Eligibility: Ineligible unless a waiver is granted.

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 and a reentry code 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: Dysthymic disorder, alcohol abuse (by history), and personality disorder, NOS, with borderline personality traits.

The applicant contends they did not have a personality disorder but had other mental health issues caused by domestic unrest within their marriage. The applicant provided medical documents, including two Reports of Mental Status Evaluations (MSEs), reflecting the applicant was diagnosed with adjustment disorder with mixed depression and anxiety caused by marital issues. The applicant was evaluated by medical examiners on several occasions, who formed different opinions on the applicant's diagnosis. The latest evaluation provided by the applicant reflects the VAMC counseling psychologist opined the applicant did not fit the diagnostic criteria for a personality disorder, nor did they fit the criteria for PTSD. The applicant most likely had an adjustment disorder with anxiety after their discharge from the Army. The applicant's AMHRR contains one of the MSEs mentioned above, which reflects the applicant underwent the mental status evaluation on 14 October 2006, indicating the applicant was mentally responsible. The applicant was diagnosed with dysthymic disorder, alcohol abuse (by history), and personality disorder, not otherwise specified (NOS), with borderline personality traits. The separation authority considered the MSE.

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.

The applicant contends the narrative reason for separation needs to be changed. The applicant was separated under the provisions of Chapter 5, paragraph 5-13, AR 635-200, 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 requests a reentry eligibility (RE) code change. 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.

The applicant contends maintaining employment with federal agencies; obtaining a bachelor's degree; pursuing an engineering degree, with a minor in business; teaching martial arts for four years; and working towards rejoining the military as an officer. 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.

The third-party statements provided with the application speak highly of the applicant. They all recognize the applicant's good military service and/or good conduct after leaving the Army.

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**. The Board reviewed the applicant's DOD and VA health records, applicant's statement, and/or civilian provider documentation and found that the applicant was diagnosed in service with an Adjustment Disorder, Depression, Anxiety, Dysthymia, and Mood Disorder NOS and is service connected by the VA for PTSD. However, there is no misconduct associated with this discharge to potentially excuse or mitigate. While there was some disagreement amongst BH providers regarding the most appropriate diagnosis, the applicant was diagnosed by a BH provider with a Personality Disorder and was separated in accordance with the regulations at the time.

(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 they did not have a personality disorder but had other mental health issues caused by domestic unrest within their marriage. The Board considered this contention but found insufficient evidence to outweigh the original behavioral health provider's diagnosis. However, a change to the narrative reason for separation will be made due to updates to the separation regulation, which no longer list Personality Disorder as a distinct reason for separation.

(2) The applicant contends good service, including a combat tour. The Board considered the totality of the applicant's record, including the applicant's service in Iraq, but ultimately did not address this contention as the applicant already holds an honorable characterization of service.

(3) The applicant contends the narrative reason for separation needs to be changed. The Board considered this contention and determined that it was valid based on updates made to AR 635-200. The new narrative reason will be Condition, Not a Disability.

(4) The applicant requests a reentry eligibility (RE) code change. The Board considered this contention and voted to maintain the RE-code at RE-3, which is a waivable 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 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 maintaining employment with federal agencies; obtaining a bachelor's degree; pursuing an engineering degree, with a minor in business; teaching martial arts for four years; and working towards rejoining the military as an officer.

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, 28, contain erroneous entries. The Board

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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

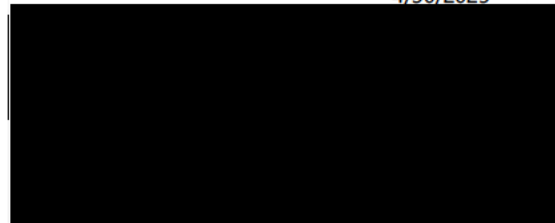
c. **Change Reason / SPD Code to:** Condition, Not a Disability / JFV

d. **Change RE Code to:** No Change

e. **Change Authority to:** AR 635-200

Authenticating Official:

4/30/2025

**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