

**1. Applicant's Name:** [REDACTED]**a. Application Date:** 8 January 2021**b. Date Received:** 13 January 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 an upgrade to their narrative reason, separation code, and reentry code.

**b. Application's Contention(s)/Issue(s):** The applicant seeks relief contending, days after arriving in Kuwait, a naval officer initiated their discharge following a brief fifteen-minute meeting. The applicant did not contest the decision, as the discharge would be honorable, and their service status held little importance at the time. The reason for the discharge remained unclear, even during the appointment. Shortly after, the applicant was placed on a return flight with two other individuals.

**c. Board Type and Decision:** On May 21, 2025, the Board conducted a thorough records review, evaluating the applicant's request alongside supporting documentation, medical assessments, and Department of Defense guidance regarding liberal consideration of discharge upgrades. With a unanimous 5-0 vote, the Board concluded that the applicant's September 2008 narrative reason for separation was inequitable due to subsequent regulatory changes. The appropriate discharge authority was identified as AR 635-200, paragraph 5-14a (Other Designated Physical or Mental Condition), with a corresponding Separation Program Designator (SPD) code of JFV. Please see the **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, Chapter 5-13 / JFX / RE-3 / Honorable

**b. Date of Discharge:** 17 September 2008

**c. Separation Facts:**

**(1) Date of Notification of Intent to Separate:** 15 July 2008

**(2) Basis for Separation:** The applicant was separated for personality disorder, in which the extent of the disorder was so severe, they were unable to function effectively in a military environment.

**(3) Recommended Characterization:** Honorable

**(4) Legal Consultation Date:** 28 July 2008

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

**(6) Separation Decision Date / Characterization:** 8 September 2008 / Honorable

**4. SERVICE DETAILS:**

**a. Date / Period of Enlistment:** 20 September 2007 / 3 years, 25 weeks

**b. Age at Enlistment / Education / GT Score:** E-2 / High School Diploma / 89

**c. Highest Grade Achieved / MOS / Total Service:** E-2 / 63J10 Quartermaster Equipment Repairman / 11 months and 28 days

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

**e. Overseas Service / Combat Service:** SWA / Iraq, 16 June – 1 August 2008 (1 month, 16 days)

**f. Awards and Decorations:** NDSM, ICM-CS, ASR

**g. Performance Ratings:** NA

**h. Disciplinary Action(s) / Evidentiary Record:** On 7 July 2008, the applicant was flagged (Suspend Favorable Personnel Actions (FLAG)) for field-initiated involuntary separation (BA).

(1) On 8 July 2008, the first sergeant counseled the applicant on their separation having been initiated under the provisions of AR 635-200, Chapter 5-13 for Personality Disorder, as the Navy Combat and operational Stress Team-North recommended separation. This recommendation was further reviewed by the Fort Hood Resilience and Restoration Center who concurred. The applicant agreed with the counseling and remarked when asked by the second psychiatrist if the applicant wanted to continue with the questions, the applicant stated no. The psychiatrist went no further unlike the first doctor. The applicant believed the question about their parent's past caused them to be a victim.

(2) In a self-authored statement, the applicant desired to remain in the Army to complete their enlistment and potentially serve until retirement. They were mission-focused, dedicated to serving their country, and was eager to deploy with their unit to Iraq. Although recommended for separation under Chapter 5-13, the applicant had no prior indicators of mental health concerns until a layover in Kuwait. The Navy doctor's evaluation, based on a brief 10-15 minute session, contains contradictions and appears to include information from another Soldier's case, raising doubts about the accuracy and fairness of the diagnosis. The applicant asserts they were mentally fit to deploy and to continue to serve. They requested retention on active duty, citing a lack of proper counseling and rehabilitative efforts from leadership, as required by AR 635-200, paragraph 1-16. They asked not to have their career ended by a single flawed opinion and to be allowed to continue contributing to the Army's mission.

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

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

**(1) Applicant provided:** None

**(2) AMHRR Listed:** Five pages of medical records dated between 23-25 June 2008.

**5. APPLICANT-PROVIDED EVIDENCE:** Application for the Review of Discharge; Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty

**6. POST SERVICE ACCOMPLISHMENTS:** None provided with this application.

**7. STATUTORY, REGULATORY AND POLICY REFERENCE(S):** 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.

a. Office, Secretary of Defense memorandum (Supplemental Guidance to Military Boards for Correction of Military/Naval Records Considering Discharge Upgrade Requests by Veterans Claiming Post Traumatic Stress Disorder), 3 September 2014, directed the Service Discharge Review Boards (DRBs) and Service Boards for Correction of Military/Naval Records (BCM/NRs) to carefully consider the revised PTSD criteria, detailed medical considerations and mitigating factors when taking action on applications from former service members administratively discharged UOTHC and who have been diagnosed with PTSD by a competent mental health professional representing a civilian healthcare provider in order to determine if it would be appropriate to upgrade the characterization of the applicant's service.

b. Office, Under Secretary of Defense memorandum (Clarifying Guidance to Military Discharge Review Boards and Boards for Correction of Military/Naval Records Considering Requests by Veterans for Modification of their Discharge Due to Mental Health Conditions, Sexual Assault, or Sexual Harassment), 25 August 2017 issued clarifying guidance for the Secretary of Defense Directive to DRBs and BCM/NRs when considering requests by Veterans for modification of their discharges due in whole or in part to mental health conditions, including PTSD; Traumatic Brain Injury; sexual assault; or sexual harassment. Boards are to give liberal consideration to Veterans petitioning for discharge relief when the application for relief is based in whole or in part to those conditions or experiences. The guidance further describes evidence sources and criteria and requires Boards to consider the conditions or experiences presented in evidence as potential mitigation for misconduct that led to the discharge.

c. Office, Under Secretary of Defense memorandum (Guidance to Military Discharge Review Boards and Boards for Correction of Military/Naval Records Regarding Equity, Injustice, or Clemency Determinations), 25 July 2018 issued guidance to Military DRBs and BCM/NRs regarding equity, injustice, or clemency determinations. Clemency generally refers to relief specifically granted from a criminal sentence. However, the guidance applies to more than clemency from a sentencing in a court-martial; it also applies to other corrections, including changes in a discharge, which may be warranted based on equity or relief from injustice.

(1) This guidance does not mandate relief but rather provides standards and principles to guide Boards in application of their equitable relief authority. In determining whether to grant

relief on the basis of equity, injustice, or clemency grounds, DRBs shall consider the prospect for rehabilitation, external evidence, sworn testimony, policy changes, relative severity of misconduct, mental and behavioral health conditions, official governmental acknowledgement that a relevant error or injustice was committed, and uniformity of punishment.

**(2)** Changes to the narrative reason for discharge and/or an upgraded character of service granted solely on equity, injustice, or clemency grounds normally should not result in separation pay, retroactive promotions, and payment of past medical expenses or similar benefits that might have been received if the original discharge had been for the revised reason or had the upgraded service characterization.

**d.** Army Regulation 15-180 (Army Discharge Review Board), dated 25 September 2019, 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.

**e.** 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:

**(1)** 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.

**(2)** 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.

**(3)** 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.

**f.** Army Regulation 635-200 (Active Duty Enlisted Administrative Separations), set policies, standards, and procedures to ensure the readiness and competency of the force while providing for the orderly administrative separation of Soldiers for a variety of reasons. Readiness is promoted by maintaining high standards of conduct and performance.

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

**(a)** 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.

**(b)** 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.

**(c)** An Under other-than-honorable-conditions discharge is an administrative separation from the Service under conditions other than honorable and it may be issued for misconduct, fraudulent entry, security reasons, or in lieu of trial by court martial based on certain circumstances or patterns of behavior or acts or omissions that constitute a significant departure from the conduct expected of Soldiers in the Army.

**(2)** Chapter 5-13 provides 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.

**(3)** 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.

- Separation Authority: Army Regulation 635-200, Chapter 15
- Separation Code: JFF
- Reenlistment Code: RE1
- Narrative Reason for Separation: Secretarial Plenary Authority
- Character of Service: Honorable

**g.** 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 "JFX" as the appropriate code to assign enlisted Soldiers who are discharged under the provisions of Army Regulation 635-200, Chapter 5-13, Personality Disorder.

**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 their narrative reason, separation code, and reentry code. The applicant's Army Military Human Resources Record (AMHRR), the issues, and documents submitted with the application were carefully reviewed.

**b.** The available evidence provides the applicant enlisted in the RA and deployed to Iraq for less than two months and served 11 months and 28 days of their 3 year-25 week contractual obligation. The applicant was separated under the provisions of AR 635-200, Chapter 5-13 for Personality Disorder with an honorable characterization of service following a medical evaluation, which deemed the extent of the disorder was so severe that their ability to function effectively in a military environment would have been significantly impaired. The applicant

elected to consult with legal and provided a statement on their behalf.

c. Chapter 5-13 provides 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.

d. Published Department of Defense guidance indicates that the guidance is not intended to interfere or impede on the Board's statutory independence. The Board will determine the relative weight of the action that led to the discharge and whether it supports relief or not. In reaching its determination, the Board shall consider the applicant's petition, available records and/or submitted documents in support of the petition.

#### **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's Medical Advisor, a voting member, reviewed the applicant's DOD and VA health records, applicant's statement, and/or civilian provider documentation and found that the applicant does not meet the criteria for a Personality Disorder.

(2) Did the condition exist, or experience occur during military service? **Yes.** The Board's Medical Advisor found applicant was diagnosed erroneously with Personality DO while on active duty.

(3) Does the condition or experience actually excuse or mitigate the discharge? **Yes.** The Board's Medical Advisor applied liberal consideration and opined that the narrative reason for applicant's discharge should be changed from Chapter 5-13 to Chapter 5-14. Review of AHLTA records indicates that there is only two BH notes in AHLTA, one of which diagnoses him with PD NOS and strongly recommends administrative separation under Chapter 5-13. There is no indication the applicant ever received psychological testing or assessment by a second BH provider confirming the presence of a personality disorder prior to his discharge for Personality DO nor is there any medical documentation over time indicating behavior s/w personality disorder. In short, the available documentation does not support the diagnosis of Personality DO NOS.

(4) Does the condition or experience outweigh the discharge? **Yes.** After applying liberal consideration, the Board concurred with the assessment of its Medical Advisor, a voting member, and determined that the applicant's original narrative reason for discharge should be revised due to subsequent regulatory changes. Accordingly, the Board identified AR 635-200, paragraph 5-14a (Other Designated Physical or Mental Condition) as the appropriate discharge authority, with a corresponding SPD code of JFV, and directed the issuance of an updated DD Form 214 to reflect this change.

b. Prior Decisions Cited: Only applies to personal appearances

c. Response to Contention(s): The applicant seeks relief contending, they were mission focused, dedicated to serving their country, and was eager to deploy with their unit to Iraq. Although recommended for separation under Chapter 5-13, the applicant had no prior indicators of mental health concerns until a layover in Kuwait. The Navy doctor's evaluation, based on a brief 10–15-minute session, contains contradictions and appears to include information from another Soldier's case, raising doubts about the accuracy and fairness of the diagnosis. The applicant asserts they were mentally fit to deploy and to continue to serve. They requested retention on active duty, citing a lack of proper counseling and rehabilitative efforts from leadership, as required by AR 635-200, paragraph 1-16. They asked not to have their career ended by a single flawed opinion and to be allowed to continue contributing to the Army's mission. The Board voted not to change the applicant's characterization because the current characterization of service is honorable. However, the board determined the narrative reason for separation is administratively inequitable due to an update to AR 635-200, paragraph 5-14a (Other Designated Physical or Mental Condition) now reflecting an SPD of JFV.

d. The Board found the original narrative reason for discharge to be administratively inequitable and voted to revise the discharge authority to AR 635-200, paragraph 14-12a (Other Designated Physical or Mental Condition), updating the Separation Program Designator (SPD) to JFV. However, the Board determined that the existing characterization of service and reentry code remain proper and equitable and therefore voted not to change them. The applicant has exhausted their appeal options available with ADRB. However, the applicant may still apply to the Army Board for Correction of Military Records. The applicant is responsible for satisfying the burden of proof and providing documents or other evidence sufficient to support the applicant's contention(s) that the discharge was improper or inequitable.

e. Rationale for Decision:

(1) The Board voted not to change the applicant's characterization of service, as it is currently listed as Honorable, and no further relief is warranted in that regard. The separation was consistent with the procedural and substantive requirements of the applicable regulation, fell within the discretion of the separation authority, and the applicant was afforded full administrative due process.

(2) The Board directed the issue of a new DD Form 214 changing the separation authority to AR 635-200, paragraph 5-14a, the narrative reason for separation (Other Designated Physical or Mental Condition) and the separation code to JFV. The previous SPD JFX is now obsolete.

(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:**

**ARMY DISCHARGE REVIEW BOARD CASE REPORT AND DIRECTIVE**

**AR20210005682**

**e. Issue a New DD-214: Yes**

**f. Change Characterization to: No Change**

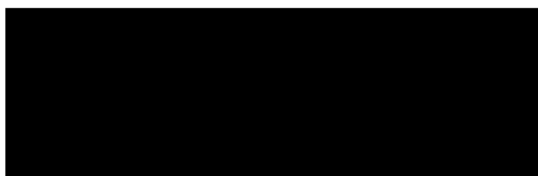
**g. Change Reason / SPD code to: (Other Designated Physical or Mental Condition)/JFV**

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

**i. Change Authority to: AR 635-200, paragraph 5-14a**

**Authenticating Official:**

2/2/2026



**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  
UOTHHC – Under Other Than  
Honorable Conditions  
VA – Department of Veterans  
Affairs