

**1. Applicant's Name:** [REDACTED]**a. Application Date:** 20 April 2021**b. Date Received:** 27 April 2021**c. Counsel:** None**2. REQUEST, ISSUES, BOARD TYPE, AND DECISION:****a. Applicant's Requests and Issues:**

(1) The current characterization of service for the period under review is Under Other Than Honorable Conditions. The applicant requests an upgrade to honorable or general (under honorable conditions) and a change of the narrative reason for separation.

(2) The applicant seeks relief contending, they dealt with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) related issues and was not helped by their unit. They sought help in 2009. They never sold drugs only used them when their PTSD became worse in 2015. All the proof is in their records.

(3) They continued to undergo much needed treatment post military and upon evaluation was diagnosed with severe PTSD with substance abuse as a secondary reason to the issue. They were never in any prior trouble and they received two Army Good Conduct Medals in their 8 years of service.

**Board Type and Decision:** In a records review conducted on 22 November 2024, and by a 5-0 vote, the Board determined that the characterization of service was inequitable based on the applicant's length, to include combat service, and the circumstances surrounding the discharge (PTSD). Accordingly, the Board voted to grant relief in the form of an upgrade to the characterization of service to General. The Board determined the narrative reason/SPD code and RE code were proper and equitable and voted not to change them.

**3. DISCHARGE DETAILS:**

**a. Reason / Authority / Codes / Characterization:** Misconduct (Drug Abuse) / Army Regulations 635-200, Paragraph 14-12c(2) / JKK / RE-4 / Under Other Than Honorable Conditions

**b. Date of Discharge:** 12 September 2014

**c. Separation Facts:**

(1) **Date of Notification of Intent to Separate:** 28 April 2014

(2) **Basis for Separation:** between on or about 18 January 2014 and 22 January 2014, wrongfully used Cocaine and between on or about 30 October 2013 and 30 November 2013, wrongfully distributed Cocaine to a lower enlisted Soldier

(3) **Recommended Characterization:** Under Other Than Honorable Conditions

(4) **Legal Consultation Date:** 19 January 2011

**(5) Administrative Separation Board:** on 29 April 2014 the applicant waived consideration of their case by an Administrative Separation Board, conditioned upon receiving a characterization of General (Under Honorable Conditions).

**(6) Separation Decision Date / Characterization:** 28 August 2014

**4. SERVICE DETAILS:**

**a. Date / Period of Reenlistment:** 10 December 2009 / NIF

**b. Age at Enlistment / Education / GT Score:** 21/ one semester of college / 102

**c. Highest Grade Achieved / MOS / Total Service:** E-6 / 88N1O, Transportation Management Coordinator / 7 years, 9 months, 28 days

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

**e. Overseas Service / Combat Service:** SWA / Iraq (9 July 2007 – 22 September 2008 and 25 May 2010 – 10 May 2011)

**f. Awards and Decorations:** ARCOM-3, AAM-5, AGCM-2, NDSM, GWTSM, ICM-2CS, NCOPDR, ASR, OSR-2

**g. Performance Ratings:** 1 September 2009 – 31 August 2010 / Fully Capable  
1 September 2010 – 31 August 2013 / Among the Best

**h. Disciplinary Action(s) / Evidentiary Record:**

**(1)** A DA Form 2627 (Record of Proceedings under Article 15, Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ)) dated 13 March 2014, reflects the applicant received nonjudicial punishment for between 18 January 2014 and on or about 22 January 2014, wrongfully used Cocaine, a Schedule II controlled substance, in violation of Article 112a (Wrongful Use of Cocaine), UCMJ. Their punishment consisted of a reduction in rank/grade of staff sergeant/E-6 to sergeant/E-5, forfeiture of \$1,367.25 per month for 2 months, and extra duty and restriction for 45 days. The applicant elected not to appeal.

**(2)** A memorandum, U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command (CID), Stuttgart CID Office, subject: CID Report of Investigation – Initial Final, dated 3 April 2014, reflects the applicant as the named subject in violation of Article 107 (False Official Statement), UCMJ, and Article 112a (Wrongful Use of Cocaine), UCMJ. The Investigative Summary states the applicant provided a urine specimen, which was subsequently tested and found positive for presence of cocaine. Investigation established probable cause to believe the applicant committed the offenses of Wrongful Use of Cocaine and False Official Statement when they consumed cocaine and later provided a sworn statement they knew to be false when they denied they knowingly consumed cocaine. On 1 April 2014, Captain R\_\_\_\_, Trial Counsel, Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, Kelley Barracks, Stuttgart, Germany, concurred that probable case exist to believe the applicant committed the offenses of Wrongful Use of Cocaine and False Official Statement.

**(3)** A DA Form 3822 (Report of Mental Status Evaluation) dated 3 April 2014, reflects the applicant is fit for duty, including deployment.

(a) Section III (Impression) reflects the applicant can understand and participate in administrative proceedings, can appreciate the difference between right and wrong, and meets medical retentions requirements (i.e., does not qualify for a Medical Evaluation Board).

(b) Section V (Diagnoses) reflects r/o (rule out) Substance Abuse.

(c) Section VI (Proposed Treatments) reflects a follow up appointment with Behavioral Health Clinic on 9 April 2014.

(d) Section VIII (Additional Comments) reflects the applicant was screened for PTSD and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). These conditions are either not present or, if present, do not meet criteria for a Medical Evaluation Board. The applicant was referred to the Army Substance Abuse Program with evaluation pending. The applicant reports some PTSD symptoms dating back to just after their first deployment. After their second deployment they report increased symptoms. They missed an intake with the social worker at Fort Bragg (August 2011) and later declined service due to a permanent change of station move to Germany. They never made contact with Behavioral Health after they moved to Germany. They do not express functional impairment as a result of symptoms, and therefore does not meet criteria for a diagnosis. They are also reporting some residual neurologic symptoms (headache, dizziness) since deployment and was encouraged to schedule an appointment with their primary case manager to discuss referral to TBI clinic.

(e) The Remarks reflects the applicant expressing some PTSD and TBI symptoms that should be followed up. However, these symptoms have been present from some time and do not appear to cause significant functional impairment. Therefore, they do not meet criteria for a medical board. The applicant is cleared for punitive action or chapter separation, from a behavioral health perspective, as deemed appropriate by their command.

(4) A memorandum, Headquarters Support Company, 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), subject: Separation under Army Regulation 635-200, Paragraph 14-12c(2), Abuse of Illegal Drugs, [Applicant], dated 28 April 2014, reflects the applicant receive notification of the initiation of separation action against them from their company commander for Abuse of Illegal Drugs. The reason for the proposed separation action is described above in paragraph 3c(2). The company commander recommended the applicant be separated from the Army prior to the expiration of their term of service with a discharge Under Other Than Honorable Conditions. On the same date the applicant acknowledged receipt of their notification of separation and of the rights available to them.

(5) On 29 April 2014 the applicant completed their Election of Rights acknowledging they have been advised by their consulting counsel of the basis for the contemplated action to separate them for Abuse of Illegal Drugs and its effects; of the rights available to them, and of the effect of any action by them in waiving their rights. The waived consideration of their case by an administrative separation board, conditioned upon them receiving a characterization of General (Under Honorable Conditions). The requested consulting counsel and elected not to submit statements in their own behalf. They understand that they may expect to encounter substantial prejudice in civilian life if a general (under honorable conditions) discharge is issued to them. They further understand that as a result of issuance of a discharge under other than honorable conditions they may be ineligible for many or all benefits as a veteran under both Federal and State laws.

(6) A memorandum, Headquarters Support Company, 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), subject: Commander's Report – Proposed Separation under Army Regulation 635-200, Paragraph 14-12c(2), Commission of a Serious Offense – Abuse of Illegal

Drugs, dated 5 May 2014, reflects the applicant's company commander recommended the applicant's conditional waiver of an administrative separation board for issuance of a general (under honorable conditions) characterization of service be disapproved. The company commander commented the applicant's abuse of illegal drugs not only compromised their integrity and ability to serve effectively as a noncommissioned officer (NCO), but also significantly undermined the good order and discipline of the battalion, warranting a discharge under other than honorable conditions.

(7) A memorandum, Headquarters Support Company, 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group (Airborne), subject Separation under Army Regulation 635-200, Paragraph 14-12c(2), Abuse of Illegal Drugs, [Applicant], dated 6 May 2014, reflects the applicant's battalion commander recommended the applicant's conditional waiver of an administrative separation board for issuance of a general (under honorable conditions) characterization of service be disapproved. The battalion commander commented, as an NCO, using and distributing illegal drugs to junior Soldier is inexcusable. They strongly recommend the applicant be separated under other than honorable conditions.

(8) A memorandum, U.S. Army Garrison-Stuttgart, subject Separation under Army Regulation 635-200, Paragraph 14-12c(2), Abuse of Illegal Drugs, [Applicant], dated 6 May 2014, reflects the applicant's garrison commander recommended the applicant's conditional waiver of an administrative separation board for issuance of a general (under honorable conditions) characterization of service be disapproved. The garrison commander commented, disapproval of the applicant's conditional waiver is warranted due to the totality of circumstances. The applicant wrongfully used cocaine prior to deployment which resulted in a high positive urinalysis. Their action are not compatible with service and do not warrant a general (under honorable conditions) discharge.

(9) Note: the applicant's administrative separation board documents are not in evidence for review.

(10) A memorandum, Headquarters, 21st Theater Sustainment Command, subject: Separation under Army Regulation 635-200, Paragraph 14-12c(2), Commission of a Serious Offense – Abuse of Illegal Drugs, [Applicant], dated 28 August 2014, reflects the separation authority reviewed the separation packet of the applicant and after careful consideration of all matters directed the applicant be separated from the Army prior to the expiration of their current term of service. The separation authority directed the applicant's service be characterized as Under Other Than Honorable Conditions and they be reduced to the lowest enlisted grade. After reviewing the rehabilitative transfer requirements they have determined the requirements do not apply to this action.

(11) A DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) reflects the applicant was discharged on 12 September 2014, with 7 years, 9 months, and 28 days of net active service this period. The DD Form 214 show in –

- item 4a (Grade, Rate or Rank) – Private
- item 4b (Pay Grade) – E-1
- item 12i (Effective Date of Pay Grade) – 28 September 2014
- item 18 (Remarks) – in part, Continuous Honorable Active Service – 15 November 2006 through 9 December 2009 and MEMBER HAS COMPLETED FIRST FULL TERM OF SERVICE
- item 24 (Character of Service) – Under Other Than Honorable Conditions
- item 28 (Narrative Reason for Separation) – Misconduct (Drug Abuse)

**i. Lost Time / Mode of Return:** NA

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

**(1) Applicant provided:** None

**(2) AMHRR Listed:** Report of Mental Status Evaluation as described above in paragraph 4h(3).

**5. APPLICANT-PROVIDED EVIDENCE:**

- DD Form 293 (Application for the Review of Discharge from the Armed Forces of the United States)
- Certificate – Substance Abuse Treatment Program

**6. POST SERVICE ACCOMPLISHMENTS:** Substance Abuse Treatment Program

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

**a.** Title 10, U.S. Code, Section 1553, (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, Title 10, U.S. Code, Section 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 (DoD) 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 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; Title 10, U.S. Code, Section 1553; and DoD Directive 1332.41 and DoD Instruction 1332.28.

d. Army Regulation 635-200 (Active Duty Enlisted Administrative Separations) effective 17 December 2009, 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. It prescribes the policies, procedures, and the general provisions governing the separation of Soldiers before expiration term of service or fulfillment of active duty obligation to meet the needs of the Army and its Soldiers.

(1) 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.

(2) 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.

(3) A Under Other Than Honorable Conditions Discharge is an administrative separation from the Service under conditions other than honorable. It may be issued for misconduct, fraudulent entry, security reasons, or in lieu of trial by court-martial.

(4) Chapter 14 (Separation for Misconduct) established policy and prescribed procedures for separating members for misconduct. Action will be taken to separate a member for misconduct when it is clearly established that rehabilitation is impractical or unlikely to succeed. Paragraph 14-12c(2) (Abuse of Illegal Drugs is Serious Misconduct), stated, however; relevant facts may mitigate the nature of the offense. Therefore, a single drug abuse offense may be combined with one or more minor disciplinary infractions or incidents of other misconduct and processed for separation. A discharge under other than honorable conditions is

normally appropriate for a Soldier discharged under this chapter. However, the separation authority may direct a general discharge if such is merited by the Soldier's overall record.

(5) Chapter 15 (Secretarial Plenary Authority), currently in effect, 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.

e. Army Regulation 635-5-1 (Separation Program Designator (SPD) Codes) provides the specific authorities (regulatory or directive), reasons for separating Soldiers from active duty, and the SPD codes to be entered on the DD Form 214. It identifies the SPD code of "JKK" as the appropriate code to assign enlisted Soldiers who are discharged under the provisions of Army Regulation 635-200, Chapter 14, paragraph 12c(2), misconduct (drug abuse).

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 DoD Instructions 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.

g. Army Regulation 600-85 (Army Substance Abuse Program (ASAP)) governs the program and identifies Army policy on alcohol and other drug abuse, and responsibilities. The ASAP is a command program that emphasizes readiness and personal responsibility. The ultimate decision regarding separation or retention of abusers is the responsibility of the Soldier's chain of command. Abuse of alcohol or the use of illicit drugs by military personnel is inconsistent with Army values and the standards of performance, discipline, and readiness necessary to accomplish the Army's mission. Unit commanders must intervene early and refer all Soldiers suspected or identified as alcohol and/or drug abusers to the ASAP. The unit commander should recommend enrollment based on the Soldier's potential for continued military service in terms of professional skills, behavior, and potential for advancement.

h. Manual for Courts-Martial, United States (2008 Edition) stated, military law consists of the statutes governing the military establishment and regulations issued thereunder, the constitutional powers of the President and regulations issued thereunder, and the inherent authority of military commanders. Military law includes jurisdiction exercised by courts-martial

and the jurisdiction exercised by commanders with respect to nonjudicial punishment. The purpose of military law is to promote justice, to assist in maintaining good order and discipline in the Armed Forces. Appendix 12 (Maximum Punishment Chart) Manual for Courts-Martial shows the maximum punishments include punitive discharge for violating Article 112a (Wrongful Use, Possession, etc., of Controlled Substances).

#### 8. SUMMARY OF FACT(S):

a. The Army Discharge Review Board considers applications for upgrade as instructed by Department of Defense Instruction 1332.28.

b. A review of the available evidence reflects the applicant received nonjudicial punishment for wrongful use of cocaine and was involuntarily discharged from the U.S. Army. Their DD Form 214 provides they were discharged with a character of service of Under Other Than Honorable Conditions for misconduct (drug abuse). They completed 7 years, 9 months, and 28 days of net active service and completed their first full term of service; however, their reenlistment is not in evidence to determine their service obligation.

c. Chapter 14 establishes policy and prescribes procedures for separation members for misconduct. Specific categories include minor disciplinary infractions, a pattern of misconduct, commission of a serious offense; to include abuse of illegal drugs; and convictions by civil authorities. Action will be taken to separate a member for misconduct when it is clearly established that rehabilitation is impracticable or is unlikely to succeed. A discharge under other than honorable conditions is normally appropriate for a Soldier discharged under this chapter. However, the separation authority may direct a general discharge if such is merited by the Soldier's overall record.

d. The applicant's AMHRR does not reflect documentation of a diagnosis of PTSD, nor did the applicant provide evidence of a diagnosis of PTSD, during their military service

e. 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 has the following potentially-mitigating diagnoses: the applicant was diagnosed in-service with Adjustment Disorder, Major Depressive Disorder (MDD), and substance disorders. Post-service, the applicant is service connected for combat related PTSD.

(2) Did the condition exist, or experience occur during military service? **Yes.** The applicant was diagnosed in-service with Adjustment Disorder, Major Depressive Disorder (MDD), and substance disorders. The trauma serving as the basis for the service connected PTSD occurred in-service.



(3) Does the condition or experience actually excuse or mitigate the discharge? **Partial.** The Board's Medical Advisor applied liberal consideration and opined that given the service connected PTSD, trauma occurring prior to the misconduct, and nexus between substance use and trauma, the basis is partially mitigated. Specifically, drug use is mitigated but not distribution.

(4) Does the condition or experience outweigh the discharge? **No.** Based on liberally considering all the evidence before the Board, the ADRB determined that the condition doesn't outweigh the discharge completely. The drug usage is mitigated but the distribution is not mitigated.

**b. Prior Decisions Cited:**

**c. Response to Contention(s):**

(1) The applicant contends they dealt with (PTSD related issues and was not helped by their unit. The sought help in 2009. The Board considered this contention and determined that there is insufficient evidence in the applicant's official record or provided by the applicant that the applicant was not provided sufficient medical resources. Therefore, no change is warranted.

(2) The applicant contends they never sold drugs; they only used them when their PTSD became worse in 2015. The Board considered this contention, but the applicant did not provide sufficient evidence that the evidence in the separation file was invalid, thus no change is warranted.

(3) The applicant contends they continued to undergo much needed treatment post military and upon evaluation was diagnosed with severe PTSD with substance abuse as a secondary reason to the issue. The Board considered this contention and determined that there is insufficient evidence in the applicant's official record or provided by the applicant that the applicant was not provided sufficient medical resources. Therefore, no change is warranted.

(4) The applicant contends they were never in any prior trouble and the received two Army Good Conduct Medals in their 8 years of service. The Board recognizes and appreciates the applicant's willingness to serve and considered this contention during board proceedings along with the totality of the applicant's service record.

**d. The Board determined:** The Board carefully considered the applicant's request, supporting documents, evidence in the records, a medical review, and published Department of Defense guidance for liberal consideration of discharge upgrade requests. The Board considered the applicant's statement, record of service, the frequency and nature of misconduct, and the reason for separation. The Board found sufficient evidence of in-service mitigating factors (Length, Combat) and concurred with the conclusion of the medical advising official that the applicant's (PTSD) does partially mitigate the applicant's basis for separation (drug use). The distribution is not mitigated. Based on a preponderance of evidence, the Board determined that the character of service the applicant received upon separation was inequitable and warranted an upgrade to General; however, the unmitigated distribution of illicit drugs prevents a characterization of Honorable.

**e. Rationale for Decision:**

(1) The Board voted to change the applicant's characterization of service to General (under honorable conditions), the applicant's PTSD does mitigate the drug use; however, did

not excuse or mitigate the offenses of illicit drug distribution. Thus, the prior characterization is no longer appropriate.

**(2)** The Board voted not to change the applicant's reason for discharge or accompanying SPD code as the reason the applicant was discharged was both proper and equitable.

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

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

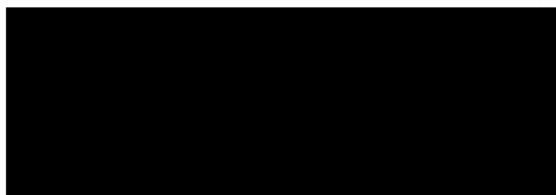
**AR20210009951**

**10. BOARD ACTION DIRECTED:**

- a. Issue a New DD-214 / Separation Order: Yes**
- b. Change Characterization to: General (Under Honorable Conditions)**
- c. Change Reason / SPD code to: No Change**
- d. Change RE Code to: No Change**
- e. Change Authority to: No Change**

**Authenticating Official:**

6/24/2025



**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