

1. Applicant's Name: [REDACTED]

a. Application Date: 9 December 2020

b. Date Received: 16 March 2021

c. Counsel: None

2. REQUEST, ISSUES, BOARD TYPE, AND DECISION:

a. **Applicant Requests:** The current characterization of service for the period under review is general (under honorable conditions). The applicant requests an upgrade to honorable and a narrative reason change.

b. **Applicant Contention(s)/Issue(s):** The applicant requests relief contending, in effect, the applicant was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and dissociative identity disorder (DID) and the applicant attempted suicide because of the diagnosed mental health conditions and not because of misconduct.

c. **Board Type and Decision:** In a records review conducted on 30 May 2025, and by a 5-0 vote, the Board determined the discharge is inequitable based on the applicant's length and quality of service, and the circumstances surrounding the discharge (Schizophrenia, disorganized type and MDD diagnoses). Therefore, the Board voted to grant relief in the form of an upgrade of the characterization of service to Honorable and changed to the separation authority to AR 635-200, paragraph 14-12a, the narrative reason for separation to Misconduct (Minor Infractions), with a corresponding separation code of JKN. The Board determined the reentry code is proper and equitable and voted not to change it. Please see **Board Discussion and Determination** section for more detail regarding the Board's decision. Board member names are available upon request.

3. DISCHARGE DETAILS:

a. **Reason / Authority / Codes / Characterization:** Misconduct (Serious Offense) / AR 635-200, Paragraph 14-12c / JKQ / RE-3 / General (Under Honorable Conditions)

b. **Date of Discharge:** 1 November 2016

c. **Separation Facts:**

(1) **Date of Notification of Intent to Separate:** NIF

(2) **Basis for Separation:** The applicant was informed of the following reasons: On 25 June 2016, the applicant violated a lawful general order; on 20 March 2016, the applicant violated a lawful general order; and on 31 March 2016, the applicant made three false official statements. Additionally, on 20 March 2016, the applicant consumed alcohol with persons under the age of 21.

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

(4) **Legal Consultation Date:** 4 October 2016

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

(6) Separation Decision Date / Characterization: 17 October 2016 / General (Under Honorable Conditions)

4. SERVICE DETAILS:

- a. Date / Period of Enlistment:** 14 October 2014 / 3 years, 25 weeks
- b. Age at Enlistment / Education / GT Score:** HS Graduate / 99
- c. Highest Grade Achieved / MOS / Total Service:** E-3 / 14T10, Patriot Operator/Maintainer / 2 years, 18 days
- d. Prior Service / Characterizations:** None
- e. Overseas Service / Combat Service:** Korea / None
- f. Awards and Decorations:** ARCOM, NDSM, GWOTSM, KDSM, OSR
- g. Performance Ratings:** NA
- h. Disciplinary Action(s) / Evidentiary Record:**

(1) Field Grade Article 15, 28 April 2016, reflects the applicant disobey a lawful order on or about 20 March 2016, by wrongfully remaining off a U.S. military installation during the hours of curfew without authorization; on or about 20 March 2016, the applicant knowingly participated in the consumption of alcohol with persons under the age of 21; and on or about 31 March 2016, the applicant made false official statements on three separate occasions. The punishment consisted of reduction to private/E-1; forfeiture of \$783 pay per month for two months, suspended, to be automatically remitted if not vacated in or before 25 October 2016; extra duty for 45 days; and restriction for 45 days. On 28 April 2016, the punishment was vacated, and the unexecuted portion of the punishment was executed due to the applicant failing to obey a lawful order on or about 25 June 2016, by wrongfully remaining off a U.S. military installation during the hours of 0100 and 0500.

(2) Field Grade Article 15, 13 July 2013, reflects on or about 25 June 2016, the applicant failed to obey a lawful general order by wrongfully remaining off a U.S. military installation during hours of 0100 and 0500. The punishment consisted of forfeiture of \$375 pay per month for two months; extra duty for 45 days; and restriction for 45 days.

(3) Report of Mental Status Evaluation (MSE), 29 August 2016, reflects the applicant could understand and participate in administrative proceedings and appreciate the difference between right and wrong. The applicant was diagnosed with adjustment disorder with depressed mood.

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

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

(1) Applicant provided: The applicant provides medical documents pertaining to the applicant's mental health diagnoses.

(2) AMHRR provided: See MSE as described Item 4h(3).

5. APPLICANT-PROVIDED EVIDENCE: DD Form 293, DD Form 214

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. 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.

c. 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.

d. 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.

e. 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.

f. Army Regulation 635-200 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. It states:

(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.

(2) Chapter 14 establishes policy and prescribes procedures for separating members for misconduct. Specific categories include minor disciplinary infractions, a pattern of misconduct, and commission of a serious offense, to include abuse of illegal drugs, convictions by civil authorities and desertion or being absent without leave. Action will be taken to separate a member for misconduct when it is clearly established that rehabilitation is impractical or 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. Paragraph 14-12c, states a Soldier is subject to action per this section for commission of a serious military or civilian offense, if the specific circumstances of the offense warrant separation and a punitive discharge is, or would be, authorized for the same or a closely related offense under the Manual for Courts-Martial.

(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. If Secretarial Authority is granted normally correct the record to show the following:

- 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

(4) 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 "JKQ" as the appropriate code to assign enlisted Soldiers who are discharged under the provisions of Army Regulation 635-200, Chapter 14-12C, Misconduct (Serious Offense).

8. SUMMARY OF FACT(S): Standard of Review. 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 honorable along with a narrative reason change. The applicant's Army Military Human Resources Record (AMHRR), the issues, and documents submitted with the application were carefully reviewed.

b. The applicant requests the narrative reason be changed. The applicant was separated under the provisions of AR 635-200, Chapter 14-12c, with a general (under honorable conditions) discharge. The narrative reason specified by Army Regulations for a discharge under this chapter is "Misconduct (Serious Offense)" and the separation code is "JKQ." Army Regulation 635-8, Separation 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 any other reason to be entered under this regulation.

c. The applicant contends the applicant was diagnosed with PTSD and DID and the applicant attempted suicide because of the diagnosed mental health conditions and not because of misconduct. The applicant's AMHRR contains documentation which supports a diagnosis of in-service adjustment disorder with depressed mood. The record shows the applicant underwent a mental status evaluation (MSE) / behavioral health evaluation (BHE) on 29 August 2016, which indicates the applicant could understand and participate in administrative proceedings and appreciate the difference between right and wrong. The applicant provides medical documents pertaining to the applicant's mental health diagnoses.

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/experiences: Major Depressive Disorder; Schizophrenia, disorganized type. [Note-Adjustment DO with mixed anxiety and depressed mood, Other persistent mood disorders and GAD are subsumed under

diagnosis of MDD. Dissociative Identity DO and Dissociative Disorder, unspecified are subsumed under diagnosis of Schizophrenia.

(2) Did the condition exist, or experience occur during military service? **Yes.** The Board's Medical Advisor found MDD was diagnosed during military service. VA service connection for Schizophrenia (100%SC) establishes nexus with active service.

(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 applicant has several mitigating BH conditions, Schizophrenia, disorganized type and MDD. [Note-Adjustment DO with mixed anxiety and depressed mood, Other persistent mood disorders and GAD are subsumed under diagnosis of MDD. Dissociative Identity DO and Dissociative Disorder, unspecified are subsumed under diagnosis of Schizophrenia.] As there is an association between Schizophrenia, MDD and avoidant behavior, there is a nexus between these diagnoses and missing curfew on two occasions. As there is an association between Schizophrenia and inability to follow normal rules and societal mores, there is a nexus between the diagnosis of Schizophrenia and making three false official statements and consuming alcohol with persons under 21 years of age. Record review indicates that the applicant reported experiencing auditory hallucinations as early as Dec 2015, well before they engaged in minor misconduct.

(4) Does the condition or experience outweigh the discharge? **Yes.** Based on liberally considering all the evidence before the Board, the ADRB determined that the condition, Schizophrenia, disorganized type and MDD, outweighed the basis of separation.

b. Response to Contention(s): The applicant contends the applicant was diagnosed with PTSD and DID and the applicant attempted suicide because of the diagnosed mental health conditions and not because of misconduct.

The Board considered this contention and determined that it was valid due to the applicant's Schizophrenia, disorganized type and MDD outweighing the applicant's misconduct of missing curfew on two occasions, making false official statements, and consuming alcohol with persons under 21 years of age. Therefore, a discharge upgrade is warranted.

c. 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 concurred with the conclusion of the medical advising official that the applicant's Schizophrenia, disorganized type and MDD, mitigate the applicant's offenses of violated a lawful general order (curfew violation in Korea); false official statements on three separate occasions; consumed alcohol with persons under the age of 21 and warrants a change to the character and narrative reason for separation. Therefore, the Board voted to grant relief in the form of an upgrade to the characterization of service to Honorable and directed the issue of a new DD Form 214 changing the separation authority to AR 635-200, paragraph 14-12a, the narrative reason for separation to Misconduct (Minor Infractions), and the separation code to JKN. The Board determined the RE Code was proper and equitable and voted not to change it.

d. Rationale for Decision:

(1) Published Department of Defense guidance indicates the guidance is not intended to interfere or impede on the Board's statutory independence. The Board determines the relative weight of the action that was the basis for the discharge and whether it supports relief or not. In

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reaching its determination, the Board considers the applicant's petition, available records and any supporting documents included with the petition.

(2) The Board voted to change the applicant's characterization of service to Honorable because the applicant's Schizophrenia, disorganized type and MDD outweighed the applicant's missing curfew on two occasions, making false official statements, and consuming alcohol with persons under 21 years of age. Thus, the prior characterization is no longer appropriate.

(3) The Board voted to change the reason for discharge to Misconduct (Minor Infractions) under the same rationale, thus the reason for discharge is no longer appropriate. The SPD code associated with the new reason for discharge is JKN.

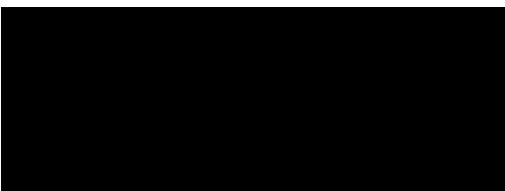
(4) The RE code will not change, as the current code is consistent with the procedural and substantive requirements of the regulation.

10. BOARD ACTION DIRECTED:

- a. Issue a New DD-214:** Yes
- b. Change Characterization to:** Honorable
- c. Change Reason / SPD Code to:** Misconduct (Minor Infractions)/JKN
- d. Change RE Code to:** No Change
- e. Change Authority to:** AR 635-200

Authenticating Official:

6/26/2025



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
FTR – Failure to Report

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