

1. Applicant's Name: [REDACTED]

a. Application Date: 6 May 2021

b. Date Received: 27 May 2021

c. Counsel: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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 an Under Other Than Honorable Conditions. The applicant requests an upgrade to honorable, a change of their separation code, reentry code and the narrative reason for separation.

(2) The applicant, through counsel, seeks relief contending they have been diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). They have included a copy of the pertinent medical records to support the fact that they are suffering from PTSD due to their wartime experiences. They served as a chaplain and had to provide services and support for survivors of their own unit and other units who either had personnel killed in action or committed suicide. After returning from deployment, they were responsible for handling death notifications and military funerals. They experienced a heightened sense of anxiety and started drinking to ease their anxiety.

(3) They finally sought medication for anxiety in 2012; however, they continued to drink alcohol. By late 2012/2013, alcoholism took over their life. Between January and June 2013, they were found publicly intoxicated on three occasions and received two driving under the influence of alcohol charges. They resigned with an Under Other Than Honorable Conditions character of service for the good of the service in lieu of trial by general court-martial.

(4) The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) granted service connection for PTSD because of their active service. Under the Hagel Memorandum and 2017 Clarifying Guidance, they respectfully request the Board to grant liberal consideration and find that the alcohol-induced misconduct that led to their discharge was directly caused by their mental health condition, specifically, PTSD.

(5) Their discharge was inequitable because of their mental health condition of undiagnosed PTSD and resulting severe alcoholism were mitigating factors in their misconduct. Their mental health condition outweighs their misconduct because the misconduct was an attempt to alleviate their severe PTSD symptoms.

b. Board Type and Decision: In a records review conducted on 23 July 2025, and by a 5-0 vote, the Board voted to grant relief in the form of an upgrade of the characterization of service to General (Under Honorable Conditions). There will be no change to the narrative reason for separation or SPD code. The Board did not vote on an RE Code change because the applicant was an officer.

*Please see Section 9 of this document for more detail regarding the Board's decision.
(Board member names available upon request)*

3. DISCHARGE DETAILS:

a. Reason / Authority / Codes / Characterization: In Lieu of Trial by Court-Martial / Army Regulation 600-8-24, Paragraph 3-13 / DFS / Under Other Than Honorable Conditions

b. Date of Discharge: 11 October 2013

c. Separation Facts:

(1) Date and Charges Preferred (DD Form 458, Charge Sheet): On 24 June 2013, the applicant was charged with –

Charge I: Violating Article 86 (Failure to go, going from place of duty), for, at or near Fort Bragg, NC, on or about 4 April 2013, without authority, fail to go at the time prescribed to their appointed place of duty.

Charge II – Violating Article 92 (Failure to obey order, regulation), four specifications

Specification 1 – did, at or near Fayetteville, NC, on or about 3 April 2013, fail to obey a lawful general regulation, by wrongfully inhaling the contents of a can of compressed air with the intent to induce a condition of intoxication.

Specification 2 – did, at or near Fayetteville, NC, on or about 3 April 2013, fail to obey a lawful general regulation, by wrongfully consuming alcohol publicly off-post while wearing a Class C uniform.

Specification 3 – did, at or near Fayetteville, NC, on or about 3 April 2013, fail to obey a lawful general regulation, by wrongfully entering Secrets Cabaret, an off-post striptease club, while in a Class C uniform.

Specification 4 – did, at or near Fayetteville, NC, on or about 4 April 2013, fail to obey a lawful general regulation, by wrongfully being drunk during duty hours.

Charge III – Violating Article 120c (Indecent Exposure) for, at or near Fayetteville, NC, on or about 3 April 2013, intentionally expose in an indecent manner their penis while in a public place in the presence of others.

Charge IV – Violating Article 133 (Conduct Unbecoming Officer) for, at or near Fayetteville, NC, on or about 3 April 2013, in a public place, drunk and disorderly while in uniform, to the disgrace of the Armed Forces.

Charge V – Violating Article 134 (Drunk and Disorderly), two specifications –

Specification 1 – as the driver of a vehicle at the time of a collision in which said vehicle was involved, and having knowledge of said collision, did, at or near Fayetteville, NC, on or about 5 June 2013, wrongfully and unlawfully leave the scene of the collision without making their identity known, such conduct being of a nature to bring discredit upon the Armed Forces.

Specification 2 – was, at or near Fayetteville, NC, on or about 5 June 2013, drunk and disorderly, such conduct being of a nature to bring discredit upon the Armed Forces.

(2) Legal Consultation Date: 27 June 2013

(3) Basis for Separation: Pursuant to applicant's request for Resignation, In Lieu of Trial by Court-Martial under the provisions of Army Regulation 600-8-24, Chapter 3.

(4) Separation Decision Date / Characterization: 23 September 2013 / Under Other Than Honorable Conditions

4. SERVICE DETAILS:

a. Date / Period of Appointment: 6 July 2007 / NIF

b. Age at Appointment / Education: 32 / Master of Divinity

c. Highest Grade Achieved / MOS / Total Service: O-3 / 56A, Command/Unit Chaplain / 6 years, 29 days

d. Prior Service / Characterizations: NA

e. Overseas Service / Combat Service: SWA / Iraq (1 August 2008 – 19 August 2009)

f. Awards and Decorations: ICM-2CS, BSM, ARCOM, AAM-2, MUC, ASUA, NDSM, ICM-A, GWTSM, ASR, OSR

g. Performance Ratings: NA

- 18 December 2008 – 14 September 2011 / No Box Check
- 15 September 2011 – 3 April 2012 / Above Center of Mass
- 4 April 2012 – 1 February 2013 – Below Center of Mass DO NOT RETAIN

h. Disciplinary Action(s) / Evidentiary Record:

(1) A DA Form 67-9 (Officer Evaluation Report), covering the period 4 April 2012 through 12 February 2013, signed by the applicant on 22 March 2013, reflects in –

- Part I(h) (Reason for Submission) – Relief for Cause
- Part II(d) (This is a Referred Report, Do you wish to make comments?) – Referred is marked and the applicant marked "No"
- Part IV(a) (Army Values) – the applicant's rater marked "NO" for Integrity, Selfless-Service, and Duty
- Part IV(b)(3) (Actions (Leadership)) – the applicant's rater marked "NO" for Decision Making and Executing
- Part Va (Evaluate The Rated Officer's Performance) – the applicant's rater marked "Unsatisfactory Performance Do Not Promote"
- Part V(b) (Comment) – reflects, in part, on 29 January 2013, [Applicant] was cited for Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol, [Applicant] has an alcohol dependency problem and can no longer serve as a Chaplain in this unit
- Part V(c) (Comment on Potential for Promotion) – potential for promotion and further service in the Army is doubtful based on [Applicant's] DUI and alcohol dependency
- Part VII(a) (Evaluate the Rated Officer's Promotion Potential) – reflects the applicant's senior rater marked "DO NOT PROMOTE"
- Part VII(b) (Potential) – reflects the applicant's senior rater marked "Below Center of Mass Do Not Promote"

- Part VII(c) (Comment on Performance) – in part, [Applicant's] poor judgement off duty compromised [Applicant's] ability to continue perform [Applicant's] duties as the unit Chaplain
- Part VII(d) (List Three Future Assignments for which this Officer is Best Suited) – “Do not believe this officer should continue to serve in the Army”

(2) A memorandum, Headquarters, 82nd Airborne Division, subject: General Officer Memorandum of Reprimand (GOMOR) under Provisions of Army Regulation 600-37 (Unfavorable Information), dated 7 February 2013, reflects the applicant was reprimanded in writing for driving under the influence of alcohol. The commanding general states, on 29 January 2013, construction workers discovered the applicant unconscious in their running vehicle. Those workers, concerned for the applicant's safety, contacted Emergency Medical Service (EMS) who discovered the applicant was drunk and asleep. EMS contacted Fort Bragg Military Police to apprehend them. The Military Police administered a breathalyzer which determined their blood alcohol content to be 0.12-percent. Subsequently, the applicant was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol. On 11 February 2013, the applicant acknowledged receipt of the GOMOR and elected not to make a statement.

(3) A memorandum, Headquarters, 82nd Airborne Division, subject: GOMOR under Provisions of Army Regulation 600-37, dated 30 May 2013, reflects the applicant was reprimanded in writing for their unprofessional and for wrongfully using a substance for the purpose of inducing intoxication in violation of Army Regulation 600-85 (The Army Substance Abuse Program). A commander's inquiry revealed that on 3 April 2013, two enlisted Soldiers removed the applicant from an adult entertainment venue due to their state of drunkenness and improper behavior. The inquiry also revealed the applicant urinated from the establishment's balcony, wrongfully exposed their genitalia, and inhaled from a can of compressed air duster all while wearing their Army Combat Uniform. On 11 June 2013, the applicant acknowledged receipt of the GOMOR and elected not to make a statement.

(4) A DD Form 458 (Charge Sheet) dated 24 June 2013 reflects charges were preferred against the applicant described in previous paragraph 3c (1).

(5) The applicant's memorandum, subject: Request for the Good of the Service (in Lieu of Trial by Court-Martial) – [Applicant], dated 2 July 2013, reflects the applicant voluntarily tender their resignation from the Army for the good of the service under Army Regulation 600-8-24, chapter 3. They do not desire to appear before a Court-Martial or Board of Officers. They have not been subjected to coercion with respect to this resignation, have been advised of, and fully understand the implications of this action.

(a) They have been fully advised and counseled in this matter by a member of the Judge Advocate General's Corps on 27 June 2013 at Fort Bragg Trial Defense Service Field Office. They understand that this resignation, if accepted, they may be considered as being Under Other Than Honorable Conditions. They also understand that a resignation for the good of the Service may be withdrawn only with the approval of Headquarters Department of the Army. Notwithstanding this, they request that their resignation be classified as General (Under Honorable Conditions).

(b) If their resignation is accepted, regardless of the type of discharge certificate furnished, they understand they will not receive separation pay and that they will be barred from all rights, based on the period of service from which they will be separated, under any laws administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(6) A memorandum, Headquarters, 82nd Airborne Division, subject: Request for Resignation for the Good of the Service in Lieu of Courts-Martial, [Applicant], dated 18 July 2013, reflects the commanding general notified the Commander, HRC that they considered the applicant's matters and recommend that their Resignation for the Good of the Service in Lieu of Court-Martial be approved and they be separated from the U.S. Army with a characterization of service as Under Other Than Honorable Conditions.

(7) A memorandum, Department of the Army, Office of the Assistant Secretary, Manpower and Reserve Affairs, subject: Resignation for the Good of the Service in Lieu of General Court-Martial Case, [Applicant], dated 23 September 2013, reflects the Department of the Ad Hoc Review Board has reviewed the applicant's case. The Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army accepted the applicant's resignation and directed they will be discharged from the U.S. Army with an Under Other Than Honorable Conditions characterization of service. They directed the entire court-martial proceedings, both findings and sentence, if any, be vacated.

(8) On 11 October 2013, the applicant was discharged accordingly, the DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) provides they completed 6 years and 29 days of net active service this period and completed their first full term of service. Their DD Form 214 reflects in –

- item 24 (Character of Service) – Under Other Than Honorable Conditions
- item 25 (Separation Authority) – Army Regulation 600-8-24
- item 26 (Separation Code) – DFS
- item 28 (Narrative Reason for Separation) – In Lieu of Trial by Court-Martial

i. Lost Time / Mode of Return: None

j. Behavioral Health Condition(s): None

(1) Applicant provided: Service Medical Records, Post-Service Behavioral Health Records, and VA Rating Decision with service connection for treatment purposes only for PTSD.

(2) AMHRR Listed: None

5. APPLICANT-PROVIDED EVIDENCE:

- two DD Form 293 (Application for the Review of Discharge from the Armed Forces of the United States)
- DD Form 214
- VA Form 21-22 (Appointment of Veterans Service Organization as Claimant's Representative)
- VA Letter with Rating Decision
- Client Profile
- two The Veterans Consortium Letters, with Brief in Support of Application and 26 exhibits
- VA Letter – Health Care for Homeless Veterans

6. POST SERVICE ACCOMPLISHMENTS: None provided with the application.

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 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), 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.

d. Army Regulation 600-8-24 (Officer Transfers and Discharges) effective 12 May 2006 prescribed the officer transfers from active duty to the Reserve Component and discharge functions for all officers on active duty for 30 days or more.

(1) Paragraph 1-22 (Types of Administrative Discharge/Character of Service) stated when an officer's tour of active duty is terminated due to discharge, retirement, or release from active duty, the period of service will be characterized as "Honorable," "General" ("Under Honorable Conditions"), "Under Other Than Honorable," or "Dishonorable" depending on the circumstances.

(a) Honorable characterization of service, an officer will normally receive an honorable characterization of service when the quality of the officer's service has met the standards of acceptable conduct and performance of duty, or the final revocation of a security clearance under DODI 5200.02 and AR 380-67 for reasons that do not involve acts of misconduct for an officer.

(b) General (Under Honorable Conditions) characterization of service, an officer will normally receive a general (under honorable conditions) characterization of service when the officer's military record is satisfactory but not sufficiently meritorious to warrant an honorable discharge.

(c) Under Other Than Honorable Conditions is an administrative separation from the service. A discharge certificate will not be issued. An officer will normally receive an under other than honorable conditions when they, to include Resigns for the Good of the Service.

(2) Chapter 3 (Resignations) prescribed the tasks, rules and steps for processing voluntary resignations. Except as provided in paragraph 3-1b, any officer of the Active Army or USAR may tender a resignation under the provisions of this chapter. The Secretary of the Army (or designee) may accept resignations and orders will be issued by direction of the CG, HRC. An officer whose resignation has been accepted will be separated on the date specified in Department of the Army's orders or as otherwise directed by the Department of the Army. An appropriate discharge certificate as specified by the CG, HRC, will be furnished by the appropriate commander at the time the officer is separated. The date of separation, as specified or directed, will not be changed without prior approval of HQDA nor can valid separation orders be revoked subsequent to the specified or directed date of separation.

(3) Paragraph 3-13 (Rules for Processing Resignation for the Good of the Service in Lieu of General Court-Martial), stated an officer may submit a resignation for the good of the service in lieu of general court-martial, to include, when court-martial charges have been preferred against the officer with a view toward trial by General Court-Martial. An officer separated under this paragraph normally receives characterization of service of Under Other Than Honorable Conditions.

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 "DFS" as the appropriate code to assign enlisted Soldiers who are discharged under the provisions of Army Regulation 600-8-24, paragraph 3-9, In Lieu of Trial by Court-Martial.

f. 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.

g. Manual for Courts-Martial (2012 Edition), United States, states 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 orders and discipline in the Armed Forces. Appendix 12 (Maximum Punishment Chart) Manual for Courts-Martial shows the maximum punishments include punitive discharge for violating the Article 86 (AWOL), Article 92 (Failure to obey order, regulation), Article 120c (Indecent Exposure), Article 133 (Conduct Unbecoming Officer), and Article 134 (Drunk and Disorderly).

h. Title 38, U.S. Code, Sections 1110 and 1131, permits the VA to award compensation for a medical condition which was incurred in or aggravated by active military service. The VA, however, is not required by law to determine medical unfitness for further military service. The VA, in accordance with its own policies and regulations, awards compensation solely on the basis that a medical condition exists and that said medical condition reduces or impairs the social or industrial adaptability of the individual concerned. Consequently, due to the two concepts involved, an individual's medical condition, although not considered medically unfitting for military service at the time of processing for separation, discharge, or retirement, may be sufficient to qualify the individual for VA benefits based on an evaluation by the agency.

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 applicant's AMHRR reflects the applicant received a Referred Officer Evaluation Report and a GOMOR for driving under the influence of alcohol, received an additional GOMOR for unprofessionalism, wrongfully using a substance for the purpose of inducing intoxicating, drunkenness and improper behavior and indecent exposure. Charges were preferred against the applicant and the applicant voluntarily tendered their resignation from the Army for the Good of the Service in Lieu of General Court-Martial. Their DD Form 214 provides they were discharged with a character of service of Under Other Than Honorable Conditions, for In Lieu of Trial by Court-Martial. They completed 6 years and 29 days of net active service this period and completed their first full term of service.

b. Army Regulation 600-8-24, paragraph 3-13 (Rules for Processing Resignation for the Good of the Service in Lieu of General Court-Martial), stated an office may submit a resignation for the good of the service in lieu of general court-martial, to include, when court-martial charges

have been preferred against the officer with a view toward trial by General Court-Martial. An officer separated under this paragraph normally receives characterization of service of Under Other Than Honorable Conditions.

c. The applicant's AMHRR does not reflect documentation of a diagnosis of PTSD; however, the applicant provided service medical record, post-service medical record reflecting behavioral health treatment a VA Rating Decision reflecting service connection for treatment purposes only for PTSD.

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/experiences: Anxiety DO NOS; Adjustment DO with mixed emotional features; Anxiety DO; PTSD (0%SC).

(2) Did the condition exist, or experience occur during military service? **Yes.** The Board's Medical Advisor found the diagnoses of Anxiety DO NOS; Adjustment DO with mixed emotional features; Anxiety DO were made while applicant was in military service. VA service connection for PTSD (0%SC) establishes nexus with active 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 the applicant has a BH condition, PTSD, which mitigates some of his misconduct. As there is a nexus between this condition and self-medication with alcohol and/or illicit substances, there is a nexus between this condition, his wrongful inhalation of compressed air, his being drunk while on duty and in a public place and his drunk and disorderly conduct. His BH condition does not mitigate wrongfully consuming alcohol and entering a strip club while in uniform, intentionally exposing his penis in a public place, and leaving the scene of a MVA without making his identity known as PTSD does not affect one's ability to distinguish right from wrong and act in accordance with the right. [Note-diagnoses of Adjustment DO with mixed emotional features and Anxiety DO NOS are both subsumed under diagnosis of PTSD. Diagnoses of GAD is a pre-existing condition and does not fall within the purview of liberal consideration.]

(4) Does the condition or experience outweigh the discharge? **Partial.** After applying liberal consideration to the evidence, including input from the Board Medical Advisor, the Board determined that the applicant's PTSD partially mitigate the misconduct of wrongful inhalation of compressed air, drunk on duty in a public place, and drunk and disorderly conduct. The Board determined the applicant's length of service, quality of performance, and combat experience mitigated the remaining misconduct of entering a strip club while in uniform, public exposure, and fleeing the scene of an accident without identifying himself. Therefore, the Board voted to grant relief by upgrading the characterization of service to General (Under Honorable

Conditions). The Board voted no change to narrative reason and SPD code. There is no RE Code because the applicant was an officer.

b. Prior Decisions Cited: None

c. Response to Contention(s):

(1) The applicant contends they have been diagnosed with PTSD. They have included a copy of the pertinent medical records to support the fact that they are suffering from PTSD due to their wartime experiences. The VA granted service connection for PTSD because of their active service.

The Board considered this contention during proceedings and voted to grant an upgrade of the characterization of service to General (Under Honorable Conditions).

(2) The applicant contends they served as a chaplain and had to provide services and support for survivors of their own unit and other units who either had personnel killed in action or committed suicide. After returning from deployment, they were responsible for handling death notifications and military funerals.

The Board acknowledged the applicant's contention during its deliberations.

(3) The applicant contends after returning from Iraq, they experienced a heightened sense of anxiety and started drinking to ease their anxiety. Their misconduct as the result of their alcohol led to their resignation with an Under Other Than Honorable Conditions character of service for the good of the service in lieu of trial by general court-martial.

The Board acknowledged the applicant's contention during the proceedings.

(4) The applicant contends under the Hagel Memorandum and 2017 Clarifying Guidance, they respectfully request the Board to grant liberal consideration and find that the alcohol-induced misconduct that led to their discharge was directly caused by their mental health condition, specifically, PTSD.

The Board acknowledged the applicant's contention during the proceedings and determined an upgrade to General (Under Honorable Conditions) discharge was warranted.

(5) The applicant contends their discharge was inequitable because of their mental health condition of undiagnosed PTSD and resulting severe alcoholism were mitigating factors in the misconduct.

The Board acknowledged the applicant's contention during the proceedings and found the contention valid.

(6) The applicant contends their mental health condition outweighs their misconduct because the misconduct was an attempt to alleviate their severe PTSD symptoms.

The Board acknowledged the applicant's contention during the proceedings and voted to upgrade the character of service to General (Under Honorable Conditions).

d. The Board determined the discharge is inequitable and voted to grant relief in the form of an upgrade of the characterization of service to General (Under Honorable Conditions). The Board noted the applicant's PTSD partially mitigated the misconduct, specifically wrongful inhalation of compressed air, drunk while on duty and in a public place, and drunk and disorderly conduct. The applicant's in-service factors of length, quality, and combat experience mitigated the remaining misconduct of entering a strip club while in uniform, public exposure, and fleeing the scene of an accident without identifying himself. Therefore, the Board voted to grant relief by upgrading the characterization of service to General (Under Honorable Conditions). The Board determined the narrative reason and SPD Code were proper and

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equitable and voted not to change them. There is no RE Code because the applicant was an officer.

e. Rationale for Decision:

(1) 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, and the frequency and nature of the misconduct. The Board considered the applicant's PTSD partially mitigated the applicant's misconduct of wrongful inhalation of compressed air, drunk while on duty and in a public place, and drunk and disorderly conduct. The applicant's length and quality of service and combat experience mitigated the remaining misconduct of entering a strip club while in uniform, public exposure, and fleeing the scene of an accident without identifying himself. Based on a preponderance of evidence the Board determined the characterization of service was inequitable and voted to grant relief in the form of an upgrade to General (Under Honorable Conditions).

(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.

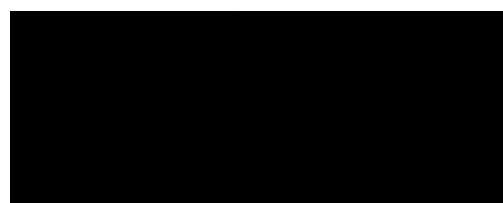
(3) There is no RE Code because the applicant was an officer.

10. BOARD ACTION DIRECTED:

- a. Issue a New DD-214:** Yes
- b. Change Characterization to:** General, Under Honorable Conditions
- c. Change Reason / SPD code to:** No Change
- d. Change Authority to:** No Change

Authenticating Official:

8/4/2025



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

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

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

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