

1. Applicant's Name: [REDACTED]**a. Application Date:** 30 June 2021**b. Date Received:** 30 June 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.

b. Applicant Contention(s)/Issue(s): The applicant requests relief contending, in effect the Army should change the narrative reason for the discharge. The applicant contents good service, including a combat tour. The applicant contends the continued contributions to the Army as a civil servant. The applicant believes that the separation authority did not consider the totality of the applicant's service when making the determination for characterization of discharge. The applicant believes when considered, the quality and length of the applicant's service, to include combat service and personal decorations, the applicant believes that the service the applicant gave the Army mitigates any discrediting factors. The applicant believes the separation authority's characterization of the applicant's service seems too harsh given the applicant's overall military service. The applicant states characterization seems to have been inequitable. The applicant found that the statement authored and submitted on the applicant's behalf in rebuttal was not present in the record. It appeared that the separation authority made the decision without the applicant's statement being reviewed or considered.

c. Board Type and Decision: In a records review conducted on 04 March 2026, and by a 3-0 vote, the Board determined that the characterization of service was inequitable based on the applicant's length and quality of service, to include combat service, and the circumstances surrounding the discharge (PTSD diagnoses). Accordingly, the Board voted to grant relief in the form of an upgrade to the characterization of service to Honorable. The Board determined the narrative reason/SPD code and RE code were proper and equitable and voted not to change them. 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: Physical Standards / AR 635-200, Chapter 13-2E / JFT / RE-3 / General (Under Honorable Conditions)

b. Date of Discharge: 13 October 2011**c. Separation Facts:**

(1) Date of Notification of Intent to Separate: 25 August 2011

(2) Basis for Separation: The applicant was informed of the following reasons: Unsatisfactory Performance; On or about 31 January 2011 and 25 May 2011 the applicant failed to meet the minimum standards during a record Army Physical Fitness Test.

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

(4) Legal Consultation Date: 31 August 2011

(5) Administrative Separation Board: NA

(6) Separation Decision Date / Characterization: 28 September 2011

4. SERVICE DETAILS:

a. Date / Period of Enlistment Under Review: 18 July 2007 / 4 years

b. Age at Enlistment / Education / GT Score: 17 / HS Graduate / 118

c. Highest Grade Achieved / MOS / Total Service: E-4 / 31B1O, Military Police, 4 years, 2 months and 26 days

d. Prior Service / Characterizations: None

e. Overseas Service / Combat Service: SWA / Iraq (31 July 2009 – 17 June 2010)

f. Awards and Decorations: ARCOM, AGCM, NDSM, ICM-CS, GWTSM, ASR, OSR

g. Performance Ratings: NA

h. Disciplinary Action(s) / Evidentiary Record:

(1) Army Physical Fitness Test Scorecard reflects the applicant failed record APFTs on 31 January 2011 and 25 May 2011.

(2) APFT data provided a record of all record APFTs taken and the status of each. For 2011 the status for all APFTs taken were shown as failed 31 January 2011 and 25 May 2011 and 28 September 2011.

(3) Two Physical Profiles (temporary profile), 6 June 2011: reflects the applicant had medical conditions limiting their duties: run at own pace and distance; no ruck marches; no IBA, no lunges, recommend low-impact exercise such as elliptical machine. (medical condition Left knee and lower back pain). Physical Profile (temporary profile), 27 September 2011 reflects the applicant had medical conditions limiting their duties: no jumping/landing, no lifting/lowering/ carrying form more than 20 pounds. No walking/marching for more that 1.5 miles. No weight bearing for more than 20 pounds.

(4) Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) Decision Letter shows the applicant received compensation for service-connected disabilities and VA notes.

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: None

(2) AMHRR Listed: None

5. APPLICANT-PROVIDED EVIDENCE: DD Form 293, 2-Self Authored Letters/Facts, MFR Civilian Recommendation, 2011-Letter of Appeal, Separation Docs, 2-Physical Profiles, Medical Records, VA Decision Letters, College Transcripts, Certificate of Recognition, Police Academy Diploma, Certificate of Appreciation, Base System Civilian Evaluation Report, Standard Form (SF) 50s, Orders 269-0008, DD Form 214

6. POST SERVICE ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Graduate of the US Army Military Police School, Captain-Watch Commander for the Police and Security Division, Directorate of Emergency Services, Military Ocean Terminal Concord, CA GS-7, Step 3 Supervisory Police Officer

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

a. Section 1553, Title 10, United States Code (Review of Discharge or Dismissal) provides for the creation, composition, and scope of review conducted by a Discharge Review Board(s) within established governing standards. As amended by Sections 521 and 525 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020, 10 USC 1553 provides specific guidance to the Military Boards for Correction of Military/Naval Records and Discharge Review Boards when considering discharge upgrade requests by Veterans claiming Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), sexual trauma, intimate partner violence (IPV), or spousal abuse, as a basis for discharge review. The amended guidance provides that Boards will include, as a voting board member, a physician trained in mental health disorders, a clinical psychologist, or a psychiatrist when the discharge upgrade claim asserts a mental health condition, including PTSD, TBI, sexual trauma, IPV, or spousal abuse, as a basis for the discharge. Further, the guidance provides that Military Boards for Correction of Military/Naval Records and Discharge Review Boards will develop and provide specialized training specific to sexual trauma, IPV, spousal abuse, as well as the various responses of individuals to trauma.

b. 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), 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 601-210, Regular Army, and Reserve Components Enlistment Program, governs eligibility criteria, policies, and procedures for enlistment and processing of persons into the Regular Army, the U.S. Army Reserve, and Army National Guard for enlistment per DODI 1304.26. It also prescribes the appointment, reassignment, management, and mobilization of Reserve Officers' Training Corps cadets under the Simultaneous Membership Program. Chapter 4 provides the criteria and procedures for waiverable and nonwaiverable separations. Table 3-1, defines reentry eligibility (RE) codes:

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

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

g. Army Regulation 635-200 (Active Duty Enlisted Administrative Separations), 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.

(a) Paragraph 3-7a states an Honorable discharge is a separation with honor and is appropriate when the quality of the Soldier's service generally has met the standards of acceptable conduct and performance of duty for Army personnel or is otherwise so meritorious that any other characterization would be clearly inappropriate.

(b) Paragraph 3-7b states 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 13 contains the policy and outlines the procedures for separating individuals for unsatisfactory performance, and provides, in pertinent part, commanders will separate a member under this Chapter when, in the commander's judgment, the member will not develop sufficiently to participate satisfactorily in further training and/or become a satisfactory Soldier.

(a) Paragraph 13-2c (previously paragraph 13-2e) states in pertinent part, separation proceedings will be initiated for Soldiers without medical limitations that have two consecutive failures of the Army Physical Fitness Test. The reason for discharge will be shown as physical standards.

(b) Paragraph 13-8, stipulates the service of Soldiers separated because of unsatisfactory performance will be characterized as honorable or under honorable conditions as warranted by their military records.

(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

h. 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 "JFT" as the appropriate code to assign enlisted Soldiers who are discharged under the provisions of Army Regulation 635-200, in effect at the time, Chapter 13-2e, Physical standards.

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. The applicant's Army Military Human Resource Record (AMHRR), the issues, and documents submitted with the application were carefully reviewed.

b. The applicant believes that the separation authority did not consider the totality of the applicant's service when making the determination for characterization of discharge. The applicant believes when considered, the quality and length of the applicant's service, to include combat service and personal decorations, the applicant believes that the service the applicant gave the Army mitigates any discrediting factors. The applicant believes the separation authority's characterization of the applicant's service seems too harsh given the applicant's

overall military service. The applicant states characterization seems to have been inequitable. The applicant found that the statement authored and submitted on the applicant's behalf in rebuttal was not present in the record. It appeared that the separation authority made the decision without the applicant's statement being reviewed or considered. The applicant's DD Form 214 indicates the applicant was discharged under the provisions of AR 635-200, Chapter 13, paragraph 13-2e, by reason of unsatisfactory performance with a characterization of service of general (under honorable conditions).

c. The applicant contends the Army should change the narrative reason for the discharge. The believes the separation authority's characterization of the applicant's service seems too harsh given the applicant's overall military service. The applicant found that the statement authored and submitted on the applicant's behalf in rebuttal was not present in the record. It appears that the separation authority made the decision without the applicant's statement being reviewed or considered. Under Chapter 13, paragraph 13-2e of AR 635-200, the Army separated the applicant with a general (under honorable conditions) discharge. Army Regulations designate "Physical standards" as the narrative reason for discharge under this provision and assign the separation code "JFT." Army Regulation 635-8 (Separation Processing and Documents) governs how officials prepare the DD Form 214. This regulation mandates that block 28 must list the narrative reason for separation, and block 26 must show the corresponding separation code, both as specified in tables 2-2 or 2-3 of AR 635-5-1 (Separation Program Designator (SPD) Codes). The regulation prohibits any deviation and does not allow officials to enter any other reason.

d. The applicant contents good service, including a combat tour. The Board evaluated the applicant's service accomplishments and overall quality of service in accordance with DODI 1332.28. The applicant deployed to SWA- Iraq (31 July 2009 – 17 June 2010), received awards the commendations for the applicant's military service and believes the applicant's deployment service history and total military service should be considered for the overall character of service.

e. The applicant contends the continued contributions to the Army as a civil servant. The applicant provided numerous documents that show the applicants civil servant accomplishments and achievements. The Army Discharge Review Board has the authority to consider post-service factors when reviewing discharge recharacterization requests. However, no law or regulation permits upgrading an unfavorable discharge solely due to time passed or good conduct in civilian life. The Board evaluates each case individually to determine whether post-service achievements indicate previous in-service misconduct was an anomaly rather than a reflection of the applicant's overall character.

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: Depression, PTSD.

(2) Did the condition exist or experience occur during military service? **Yes.** The applicant was diagnosed with depression and they are 30% service connected by the VA for PTSD.

(3) Does the condition or experience actually excuse or mitigate the discharge? **No.** The Board applied liberal consideration and opined that there are no mitigating BH conditions. While the applicant did report symptoms of depression, which began during deployment, and is 30% service connected by the VA for PTSD, there is insufficient evidence to show their BH condition was a mitigating factor in their 10 of 11 APFT failures during their time in service.

(4) Does the condition or experience outweigh the discharge? **N/A**

b. Prior Decisions Cited: None

c. Response to Contention(s):

(1) The applicant contends the discharge was inequitable and improper. The Board considered this contention valid during deliberations.

(2) The applicant contends good service, including a combat tour. The Board considered this contention valid during deliberations.

(3) The applicant contends the continued contributions to the Army as a civil servant. The Board considered this contention valid during deliberations.

d. The Board determined the applicant's discharge was inequitable. The Board voted to upgrade due to the applicant's length, combat experience, quality of service, and post service accomplishments. Therefore, the Board voted to grant relief in the form of an upgrade to the characterization of service to Honorable. The Board determined the Narrative Reason, SPD Code, and RE Code were proper and equitable and voted not to change them.

e. 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 reaching its determination, the Board considers the application, available records and any supporting documents included with the application.

(2) The Board voted to change the applicant's characterization of service to Honorable because the applicant's length, combat experience, quality of service, and post service accomplishments outweighed the applicant's failed APFTs. Thus, the prior characterization is no longer appropriate.

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

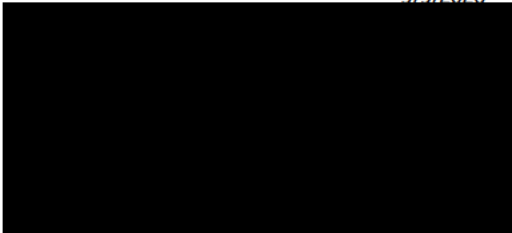
(4) The RE code will not change, as the current code is consistent with the procedural and substantive requirements of the regulation.

11. BOARD ACTION DIRECTED:

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

Authenticating Official:

3/5/2026



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