

1. Applicant's Name: [REDACTED]**a. Application Date:** 13 May 2021**b. Date Received:** 25 May 2021**c. Counsel:** None**2. REQUEST, ISSUES, BOARD TYPE, AND DECISION:**

a. Applicant's Requests and Issues: The current characterization of service for the period under review is honorable. The applicant requests a reentry (RE) code and narrative reason change.

The applicant seeks relief contending, in effect, the applicant was separated due to personality disorder, but the applicant has medical documentation stating it is inaccurate.

b. Board Type and Decision: In a records review conducted on 29 January 2025, and by a 5-0 vote, the Board voted to change the narrative reason for discharge to Chapter 5-14 (Condition, Not a Disability). The Board determined the Characterization and Reentry Eligibility (RE) Codes were proper and equitable voted not to change them.

Please see Section 9 of this document for more detail regarding the Board's decision.

3. DISCHARGE DETAILS:

a. Reason / Authority / Codes / Characterization: Personality Disorder / AR 635-200, Paragraph 5-13 / JFX / RE-3 / Honorable

b. Date of Discharge: 13 March 2018**c. Separation Facts:** Provided by applicant**(1) Date of Notification of Intent to Separate:** 12 February 2018

(2) Basis for Separation: The applicant was informed of the following reasons: On or about 6 February 2018, the applicant was diagnosed with Paranoid Personality Disorder.

(3) Recommended Characterization: Honorable

(4) Legal Consultation Date: On 13 February 2018, the applicant declined the opportunity to consult with counsel.

(5) Administrative Separation Board: NA**(6) Separation Decision Date / Characterization:** 7 February 2018 / Honorable**4. SERVICE DETAILS:****a. Date / Period of Enlistment:** 17 January 2017 / 3 years, 16 weeks**b. Age at Enlistment / Education / GT Score:** 24 / HS Graduate / 90

c. Highest Grade Achieved / MOS / Total Service: E-3 / 12B10, Combat Engineer / 1 year, 1 month, 27 days

d. Prior Service / Characterizations: None

e. Overseas Service / Combat Service: None

f. Awards and Decorations: NDSM, GWOTSM, ASR

g. Performance Ratings: NA

h. Disciplinary Action(s) / Evidentiary Record: The applicant provides a Report of Mental Status Evaluation (MSE), 6 February 2018, which reflects the applicant was diagnosed with Paranoid Personality Disorder.

i. Lost Time / Mode of Return: None

j. Behavioral Health Condition(s):

(1) Applicant provided: The applicant provides in-service medical documents which reflects the applicant was diagnosed with Paranoid Personality Disorder.

(2) AMHRR Listed: NIF

5. APPLICANT-PROVIDED EVIDENCE: DD Form 293, DD Form 214, DD Form 2807-2 (Accessions Medical History Report), Clinical Record, Medical Record, Record of Medical Examination, DD Form 2808, Separation Packet

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. Multiple Department of Defense 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 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.

(2) 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.

(3) 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.

(4) Paragraph 5-13 specifically provides that a Soldier may be separated for personality disorder not amounting to a disability, which interferes with assignment to or performance of duty and requires that the diagnosis be so severe that the Soldier's ability to function in the military environment is significantly impaired.

(5) Paragraph 5-17 specifically provides that a Soldier may be separated for other physical or mental conditions not amounting to a disability, which interferes with assignment to or performance of duty (Exceptions: combat exhaustion and other acute situational maladjustments) and requires that the diagnosis be so severe that the Soldier's ability to function in the military environment is significantly impaired. The diagnosis of personality disorder must have been established by a psychiatrist or doctoral-level clinical psychologist with necessary and appropriate professional credentials who is privileged to conduct mental health evaluations for the DOD components. It is described in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM-IV) of Mental Disorders, 4th edition. Separation because of personality disorder is authorized only if the diagnosis concludes that the disorder is so severe that the soldier's ability to function effectively in the military environment is significantly impaired. Separation for personality disorder is not appropriate when separation is warranted under chapters 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, or 18 of this regulation; AR 380-67; or AR 635-40. Nothing in this paragraph precludes separation of a soldier who has such a condition for other reasons authorized by this regulation. Separation processing may not be initiated under this paragraph until the soldier has been counseled formally concerning deficiencies and has been afforded ample opportunity to overcome those deficiencies as reflected in appropriate counseling or personnel records. When it has been determined that separation under this paragraph is appropriate, the unit commander will take the actions specified in the notification procedure.

(6) 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.

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

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 waivable. Eligibility: Ineligible unless a waiver is granted.

8. SUMMARY OF FACT(S): The Army Discharge Review Board considers applications for upgrade as instructed by Department of Defense Instruction 1332.28.

The applicant requests a narrative reason and RE code change. The applicant's Army Military Human Resources Record (AMHRR), the issues, and documents submitted with the application were carefully reviewed.

The applicant requests the narrative reason and RE code be changed. The applicant's service AMHRR is void of the specific facts and circumstances concerning the events which led to the discharge from the Army. The applicant provides a copy of the applicant's separation packet. The applicant was separated under the provisions of AR 635-200, Chapter 5-13, with an honorable discharge, and a RE code of 3. The narrative reason specified by Army Regulations, at the time, for a discharge under this chapter was "Personality Disorder" and the separation code is "JFX." Army Regulation 635-5, 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. RE-3 Applies to: Person who is not considered fully qualified for reentry or continuous service at time of separation, but disqualification is waivable. Eligibility: Ineligible unless a waiver is granted.

The applicant contends the applicant was separated due to personality disorder, but the applicant has medical documentation stating it is inaccurate. The applicant provides a Report of Mental Status Evaluation (MSE), 6 February 2018, which reflects the applicant was diagnosed with Paranoid Personality Disorder.

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? **No.** The applicant already has an honorable discharge. She is requesting a narrative reason change which does not involve liberal consideration.

(2) Did the condition exist or experience occur during military service? **No.** The Board's Medical Advisor found – (see paragraph (1) above).

(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 was not correctly diagnosed while on active duty. Her clinical history and presentation were not consistent with a diagnosis of Paranoid Personality Disorder. Additionally, there is evidence in her medical records that her therapist included another person's medical information in the CDBHE which recommended applicant be separated via Chapter 5-13. Based on these findings, it is my recommendation the applicant's discharge be changed to a HD/Chapter 5-14

(Condition, not a Disability).

(4) Does the condition or experience outweigh the discharge? **Yes.** The narrative reason for the applicant's separation is improper based on the misdiagnosis of Paranoid Personality Disorder. The ADRB determined the applicant's narrative reason for separation reflect Chapter 5-14 (Condition, not a Disability). The applicant's characterization of service is already Honorable.

b. Prior Decisions Cited: None

c. Response to Contention(s): The applicant contends they were separated due to personality disorder, but the applicant has medical documentation stating it is inaccurate. The Board acknowledged this contention and determined that the narrative reason for discharge warrants an upgrade.

d. The Board determined the narrative reason for discharge was improper. Therefore, the Board directed the issue of a new DD Form 214 changing the separation authority to AR 635-200, Chapter 15, and the narrative reason for separation to Chapter 5-14 (Condition, Not a Disability). The Board determined that the reentry eligibility code was both proper and equitable and voted not to change it.

e. Rationale for Decision:

(1) All Board members concurred with the Board's Medical Advisor that the applicant was misdiagnosed with Paranoid Personality Disorder and voted to change the reason for separation to Ch 5-14 (Condition, Not a Disability). The applicant's characterization of service is Honorable, which is both proper and equitable. The Board determined that the reentry eligibility code was also proper and equitable and voted not to change it.

(2) The Board voted to change the applicant's reason for discharge to Ch 5-14 (Condition, Not a Disability), with a corresponding SPD code of JFV.

ARMY DISCHARGE REVIEW BOARD CASE REPORT AND DIRECTIVE**AR20210013164**

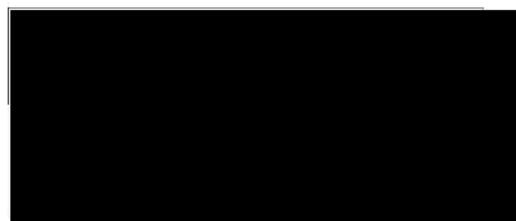
(3) The Board determined that the reentry eligibility code was both proper and equitable and voted not to change it. The current code is consistent with the procedural and substantive requirements of the regulation.

10. BOARD ACTION DIRECTED:

- a. Issue a New DD-214 / Separation Order: Yes
- b. Change Characterization to: No Change
- c. Change Reason / SPD code to: Ch 5-14 (Condition, Not a Disability).
- d. Change RE Code to: No Change
- e. Change Authority to: No change

Authenticating Official:

2/13/2025



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