

**1. Applicant's Name:** [REDACTED]**a. Application Date:** August 04, 2021**b. Date Received:** August 09, 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 upgrade to honorable.

**b. Applicant Contention(s)/Issue(s):** The applicant requests relief contending, in effect wanting to use full education benefits and not wanting to be judged for their mental health condition. The applicant contends the Army pushed them out without trying to help through the condition. The applicant expresses a disagreement with the discharge characterization, as they believe it is not a representation of themselves. The applicant contends having a VA service-connected disability for their mental health and is taking control over the condition. The applicant believes they are in a better place now, and they believe their discharge should reflect the same.

**c. Board Type and Decision:** In a records review conducted on 25 February 2026, and by a 3-0 vote, Board determined that the characterization of service was inequitable based on the circumstances surrounding the discharge (OBHI 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:** Condition, Not a Disability / AR 635-200, Chapter 5-17 / LFV / RE-3 / General (Under Honorable Conditions)

**b. Date of Discharge:** 6 October 2016

**c. Separation Facts:**

**(1) Date of Notification of Intent to Separate:** 19 September 2016

**(2) Basis for Separation:** The applicant was informed of the following reasons: As stated by a medical professional, diagnosed with an Adjustment Disorder with Mixed Anxiety and Depressed Mood.

**(3) Recommended Characterization:** Honorable

**(4) Legal Consultation Date:** On 21 September 2016, the applicant waived legal counsel.

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

**(6) Separation Decision Date / Characterization:** 22 September 2016 / General  
(Under Honorable Conditions)

**4. SERVICE DETAILS:**

**a. Date / Period of Enlistment:** 16 June 2015 / 4 years

**b. Age at Enlistment / Education / GT Score:** 18 / High School Graduate / 121

**c. Highest Grade Achieved / MOS / Total Service:** E-3 / 92A1O, Automated Logistical Specialist / 1 year, 3 months, 21 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:**

**(1)** Three Developmental Counseling Forms document instances of the applicant failing to report to appointed place of duty (29 June 2016); Diagnosis of Personality / Adjustment Disorder (14 June 2016); FLAG initiation for involuntary separation IAW AR 635-200, paragraph 1-16 (29 August 2016)

**(2)** Orders 277-0036, 3 October 2016, reflect the applicant was discharged from the USAR CON GP (REINF) attached to the RA, effective 6 October 2016.

**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:** Report of Mental Status Evaluation (MSE), 14 June 2016 indicates the applicant was cleared for any administrative actions the command deemed appropriate. The applicant demonstrated the ability to understand and participate in administrative proceedings, appreciated the difference between right and wrong, and met medical retention requirements. PTSD and mTBI screenings were conducted, but the conditions were either absent or did not meet AR 40-501 criteria for a medical evaluation board. The command was advised to consider their influence. The applicant was diagnosed with Adjustment Disorder with Mixed Anxiety and Depressed Mood.

**5. APPLICANT-PROVIDED EVIDENCE:** Application for the Review of Discharge; Character Statement; Program Enrollment Notification.

**6. POST SERVICE ACCOMPLISHMENTS:** Obtained employment with Smoke4Less LLC, was accepted into a CADD with Additive Manufacturing and 3-D Printing Technology program.

**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.

**(1)** Chapter 5 provides for the basic separation of enlisted personnel for the convenience of the government.

**(a)** Paragraph 5-1 states a Soldier being separated under this paragraph will be awarded a characterization of service of honorable, general (under honorable conditions), or an uncharacterized description of service if in entry-level status. A general (under honorable

conditions) discharge is normally inappropriate for individuals separated under the provisions of paragraph 5-14 (previously paragraph 5-17) unless properly notified of the specific factors in the service that warrant such characterization.

**(b)** Paragraph 5-14 (previously 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 and requires that the diagnosis be so severe that the Soldier's ability to function in the military environment is significantly impaired.

**(2)** 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 "LFV" as the appropriate code to assign enlisted Soldiers who are discharged under the provisions of Army Regulation 635-200, Chapter 5-17, Condition, Not a Disability.

**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 was notified of intent to separate on 19 September 2016 for diagnosis of Adjustment Disorder with Mixed Anxiety and Depressed Mood by a medical professional. The applicant was recommended for an honorable discharge. The applicant waived legal counsel on 21 September 2016. The applicant underwent an MSE and was formally diagnosed with Adjustment Disorder with Mixed Anxiety and Depressed Mood but cleared for administrative proceedings. The separation authority considered the MSE and directed a general (under honorable conditions) on 22 September 2016.

**c.** The applicant contends an upgrade would provide access to educational benefits through the GI Bill. Eligibility for veterans' benefits, including Post-9/11 or Montgomery GI Bill educational assistance, does not fall under the purview of the Army Discharge Review Board. The applicant should contact a local Department of Veterans Affairs office for further assistance.

**d.** The applicant contends the Army pushed them out without trying to help through the condition. The applicant also expresses they do not want to be judged for their mental health condition. The applicant expresses disagreement with the discharge characterization, as they

believe it is not a representation of themselves. The AMHRR does not indicate or provide evidence of arbitrary or capricious actions by the command.

e. The applicant contends having a VA service-connected disability for their mental health and is taking control over the condition. The applicant believes they are in a better place now, and they believe their discharge should reflect the same. The applicant provided no supporting evidence beyond their statement to support the contention.

#### **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: Adjustment Disorder with Mixed Anxiety and Depressed Mood, Generalized Anxiety Disorder.

(2) Did the condition exist or experience occur during military service? **Yes.** Adjustment Disorder with Mixed Anxiety and Depressed Mood.

(3) Does the condition or experience actually excuse or mitigate the discharge? **Yes.** The Board applied liberal consideration and opined that while the discharge was proper and equitable, the misconduct resulting in the General characterization is mitigated. Specifically, given the service-connected symptoms existed prior to the misconduct and association between symptoms and FTRs, the misconduct is mitigated.

(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 or experience outweighed the basis of separation.

b. Prior Decisions Cited: **N/A**

c. Response to Contention(s):

(1) The applicant contends an upgrade would provide access to educational benefits through the GI Bill. The Board considered this contention and determined that eligibility for Veteran's benefits, to include educational benefits under the Post-9/11 or Montgomery GI Bill, healthcare or VA loans, do not fall within the purview of the Army Discharge Review Board. Accordingly, the applicant should contact a local office of the Department of Veterans Affairs for further assistance.

(2) The applicant contends the Army pushed them out without trying to help through the condition. The Board considered this contention non-persuasive during its deliberations.

(3) The applicant contends having a VA service-connected disability for their mental health and is taking control over the condition. The Board liberally considered this contention and determined that it was valid due to the applicant's Adjustment Disorder with Mixed Anxiety and Depressed Mood outweighing the applicant's FTR offenses. Therefore, a discharge upgrade is warranted.

**d.** The Board determined: The Board carefully considered the applicant's request, supporting documents, evidence in the records, a medical review, and published Department of Defense guidance for liberal consideration of discharge upgrade requests. The Board concurred with the conclusion of the medical advising official that the applicant's medical diagnosis (Adjustment Disorder with Mixed Anxiety) mitigates the basis of separation (failing to report) and warrants a change to the applicant's characterization of service. Based on a preponderance of evidence, the Board voted to retain the narrative reason for the applicant's separation and the reentry code based on the medical diagnosis.

**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 Adjustment Disorder with Mixed Anxiety and Depressed Mood outweighing the applicant's FTR offenses. 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 as 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.

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

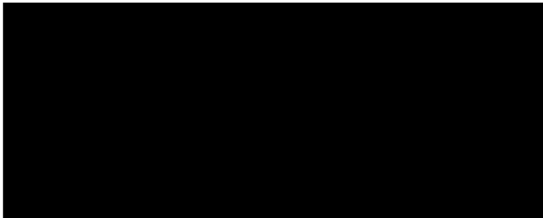
**AR20210014240**

**10. 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:**

2/27/2026



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