

1. Applicant's Name: [REDACTED]

a. Application Date: 6 September 2021

b. Date Received: 7 September 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 uncharacterized. The applicant requests an upgrade to honorable and a narrative reason change.

b. Applicant Contention(s)/Issue(s): The applicant requests relief contending, they were misdiagnosed in the military as having Bipolar Disorder from one visit with a psychiatrist, which has not been substantiated by any other psychiatric professional in the last 14 years. The applicant was an 18 year old who had just aged out of the foster care system from a very traumatic childhood. Admittedly, they was under an immense amount of stress and would have benefited from ongoing counseling and support. The applicant was given the choice to leave and not told until they were signing exit paperwork the narrative was a mental disorder. Furthermore, it was the applicant's understanding, due to the nature of their separation being less than two months in, their separation would be changed to honorable after six months and they would not have to report their service due to the limited time they were in service. Currently, the applicant has a Bachelor's of Science in Psychology and a graduate student in a clinical mental health counseling program. They have applied to the Police Academy and this discharge data will disqualify them as a candidate. The applicant has never been treated for Bipolar Disorder. They would like their characterization and the narrative reason changed. They have an impressive work experience and a proven ability to handle stressful work environments (resume and their degree was included). The applicant believed two non-criminal months of their life at age 18 should not affect their ability to be a Peace Officer at the age of 32 which is a position the applicant is highly qualified for and passionate about.

c. Board Type and Decision: In a records review conducted on 29 October 2025, and by a 3-0 vote, the Board determined that the narrative reason is improper based on a change to regulatory guidance. Accordingly, the Board voted to update the narrative reason for separation to Condition, Not A Disability, with a corresponding separation code of JFV. 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: Personality Disorder / AR 635-200, Chapter 5-13 / JFX / RE-3 / Uncharacterized

b. Date of Discharge: 14 November 2007

c. Separation Facts:

(1) Date of Notification of Intent to Separate: 1 November 2007

(2) Basic for Separation: The applicant was given a diagnosis of Personality Disorder (Dramatic type), history of Anorexia Nervosa, and a history of marijuana and opiate dependence

in early remission. For these reasons, the applicant fit the criteria for the Personality Disorder separation type. This is a deeply ingrained maladaptive pattern of behavior of long duration which interferes with the Soldier's ability to perform duty and further attempts to train were not justified.

(3) Recommended Characterization: Uncharacterized

(4) Legal Consultation Date: 1 November 2007 / The applicant waived counsel and declined to provide a statement on their behalf.

(5) Administrative Separation Board: NA

(6) Separation Decision Date / Characterization: 8 November 2007 / Uncharacterized

4. SERVICE DETAILS:

a. Date / Period Enlistment Under Review: 19 September 2007 / 5 years

b. Age at Enlistment / Education / GT Score: 18 / Bachelor's Degree / 120

c. Highest Grade Achieved / MOS / Total Service: E-2 / None / 1 month and 26 days

d. Prior Service / Characterizations: None

e. Overseas Service / Combat Service: None

f. Awards and Decorations: None

g. Performance Ratings: NA

h. Disciplinary Action(s) / Evidentiary Record: The Enlisted Record Brief provides the applicant was flagged (Suspend Favorable Personnel Actions (FLAG)) on 16 October 2007, for field-initiated involuntary separation (BA). On 3 October 2007, the company commander and first sergeant counseled the applicant on their separation under the provisions of AR 635-200, Chapter 5-13 for Personality Disorder, as they requested to see the Chaplain and when doing so, exhibited behavior requiring further evaluation from Community Mental Health Services (CMHS) on Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri and found a history of psychiatric issues which met the criteria for this separation type.

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 provided: A Report of Mental Status Evaluation, dated 2 October 2007, provides the applicant was diagnosed with Personality Disorder (Dramatic type), history of Anorexia Nervosa, and history of Marijuana and Opiate Dependence in early remission. The BH provider recommended an expedited administrative separation, removing them from training with no weapon use, and for the applicant to remain on unit watch until they have been seen again by BH.

5. APPLICANT-PROVIDED EVIDENCE: ACTS Online Application; Bachelor of Psychology Degree; Resume

6. POST SERVICE ACCOMPLISHMENTS: The applicant earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology, currently enrolled in a graduate program to obtain their Master's Degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. Additionally, they have applied to the Police Academy and has an impressive work experience and a proven ability to handle stressful work environments.

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

a. 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.

b. 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.

c. 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.

d. 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.

e. 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:

(1) 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.

(2) 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.

(3) RE-4 Applies to: Person separated from last period of service with a nonwaiverable disqualification. This includes anyone with a DA imposed bar to reenlistment in effect at time of separation or separated for any reason (except length of service retirement) with 18 or more years active Federal service. Eligibility: Ineligible for enlistment.

f. Army Regulation 635-200 provides the basic authority for the separation of enlisted personnel.

(1) Chapter 3, Section II provides the authorized types of characterization of service or description of separation. It states a separation will be described as entry-level with service uncharacterized if processing is initiated while a Soldier is in entry-level status. This characterization is when the Soldier is separated by reason of selected changes in service obligation, convenience of the Government, and Secretarial plenary authority. A Soldier is in an

entry-level status (ELS) if the Soldier has not completed more than 180 days of creditable continuous active duty prior to the initiation of separation action.

(2) Chapter 5-13 provides that a Soldier may be separated for a personality disorder, not amounting to disability, when the condition interfered with assignment to or performance of duty. The regulation requires that the condition is a deeply ingrained maladaptive pattern of behavior of long duration that interferes with the Soldier's ability to perform military duties. The regulation also directs that commanders will not take action prescribed in this Chapter in lieu of disciplinary action and requires that the disorder is so severe that the Soldier's ability to function in the military environment is significantly impaired. Army policy requires the award of a fully honorable discharge in such case; however, for Soldiers in entry-level status, it will be uncharacterized.

g. Army Regulation 635-5-1 (Separation Program Designator (SPD) Codes), in effect at the time, provided 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.

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

(1) An authenticated DD Form 214 provides the applicant was separated under the provisions of AR 635-200, Chapter 5-13 with an uncharacterized characterization of service. In October 2007, the applicant was evaluated by the Behavioral Medicine Division and given the diagnosis of Personality Disorder (Dramatic type), history of Anorexia Nervosa, history of Marijuana and Opiate dependence in early remission. For those reasons, the applicant fit the criteria for Personality Disorder, which is a deeply ingrained maladaptive pattern of behavior of long duration that interferes with the Soldier's ability to perform duty. Further attempts to train were not justified. They elected to waive their right to consult with legal and declined to provide a statement on their behalf. The applicant served 1 month and 26 days of a 5-year contractual obligation.

(2) The applicant contends, they were misdiagnosed with Bipolar Disorder after a single psychiatric visit at age 18, shortly after aging out of foster care. They contend the diagnosis was never substantiated in the past 14 years and was led to believe their discharge would be upgraded after six months due to their brief service. The applicant now holds a BS in Psychology and pursuing a graduate degree in clinical mental health counseling, has extensive work experience and seeks to become a Peace Officer. This goal is currently hindered by their discharge record.

(3) The applicant received a mental status evaluation in October 2007, providing diagnoses of Personality Disorder (Dramatic type), history of Anorexia Nervosa, and history of Marijuana and Opiate Dependence in early remission. The BH provider recommended an expedited administrative separation, removing them from training with no weapon use, and for the applicant to remain on unit watch until they have been seen again by BH.

b. Chapter 5-13 provides that a Soldier may be separated for a personality disorder, not amounting to disability, when the condition interfered with assignment to or performance of duty.

The regulation requires that the condition is a deeply ingrained maladaptive pattern of behavior of long duration that interferes with the Soldier's ability to perform military duties. The regulation also directs that commanders will not take action prescribed in this Chapter in lieu of disciplinary action and requires that the disorder is so severe that the Soldier's ability to function in the military environment is significantly impaired. Army policy requires the award of a fully honorable discharge in such case.

c. 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: Adjustment Disorder, Personality Disorder.

(2) Did the condition exist, or experience occur during military service? **Yes.** The Board's Medical Advisor found documentation of a Chapter Evaluation showing BH conditions existing prior to service and a diagnosis of Adjustment Disorder as well as MSO showed Personality Disorder.

(3) Does the condition or experience actually excuse or mitigate the discharge? **N/A.** Applicant was not discharged for misconduct, so there is no misconduct requiring mitigating or excusal. The Board's Medical Advisor applied liberal consideration and opined that there is sufficient evidence that the applicant was experiencing a mental health condition while in basic training, and conditions existed prior to service. Applicant's Adjustment Disorder, according to medical records, but the narrative reason for separation, as well as the MSE, showed a diagnosis of Personality Disorder. It is this Advisor's opinion that there is insufficient evidence to fully support a diagnosis of Personality Disorder, and a diagnosis of Adjustment Disorder is more appropriate. In accordance with Liberal Consideration, a change to the narrative reason for discharge to something more favorable could be considered by the board. However, the characterization of service is appropriate considering the applicant was in entry-level status and served less than 180 days and held no MOS.

(4) Does the condition or experience outweigh the discharge? **N/A.** The applicant was not discharged for misconduct, rather, the discharge was based on applicant's pre-service conditions during their entry-level status. Therefore, there was no mitigation based on applicant's medical conditions.

b. Response to Contention(s):

(1) The applicant requests relief contending, they were misdiagnosed in the military as having Bipolar Disorder from one visit with a psychiatrist, which has not been substantiated by any other psychiatric professional in the last 14 years. The applicant was an 18 year old who had just aged out of the foster care system from a very traumatic childhood. Admittedly, they

were under an immense amount of stress and would have benefited from ongoing counseling and support. The applicant was given the choice to leave and not told until they were signing exit paperwork the narrative was a mental disorder. The applicant has never been treated for Bipolar Disorder. They would like their characterization and the narrative reason changed. The Board considered this contention, but found an upgrade to Honorable not supported by the evidence of record. The Honorable characterization is appropriate when the quality of the Soldier's service generally has met the standards of accept conduct and performance of duty or is otherwise meritorious that any other characterization would be clearly inappropriate. The Board found that the applicant's service, given the limited nature, is properly characterized. However, due to regulatory changes since discharge, the Board determined that a change to narrative reason for separation was warranted.

(2) Furthermore, it was the applicant's understanding, due to the nature of their separation being less than two months in, their separation would be changed to honorable after six months and they would not have to report their service due to the limited time they were in service.

The Board considered this contention and determined that UNC is the proper characterization of service as the applicant's service was not long enough to be properly assessed. A general discharge (GD) under honorable conditions is not authorized under ELS conditions and an honorable discharge (HD) is rarely ever granted. An HD may be given only in cases which are clearly warranted by unusual circumstances involving outstanding personal conduct and/or performance of duty. The uncharacterized description of service accurately reflects the applicant's overall record of service. An uncharacterized discharge is neither positive nor negative and it is not meant to be a negative reflection of a Soldier's military service. It means the Soldier has not been in the Army long enough for a character of service to be rated as honorable or otherwise.

(3) Currently, the applicant has a Bachelor's of Science in Psychology and a graduate student in a clinical mental health counseling program. They have applied to the Police Academy and this discharge data will disqualify them as a candidate. They have an impressive work experience and a proven ability to handle stressful work environments (resume and their degree was included). The applicant believed two non-criminal months of their life at age 18 should not affect their ability to be a Peace Officer at the age of 32 which is a position the applicant is highly qualified for and passionate about.

The ADRB is authorized to consider post-service factors in the recharacterization of a discharge. However, there is no law or regulation which provides an unfavorable discharge must be upgraded based solely on the passage of time or good conduct in civilian life subsequent to leaving the service, and there is no law or regulation in which discharges are automatically upgraded after a certain passage of time. Outstanding post-service conduct, to the extent such matters provide a basis for a more thorough understanding of the applicant's performance and conduct during the period of service under review, is considered during Board proceedings. The Board reviews each discharge on a case-by-case basis to determine if post-service accomplishments help demonstrate an inequity in the discharge listed. In this case, the Board considered this contention and determined that the applicant's post-service conduct did not warrant an upgrade to the characterization for the reason listed in the prior paragraph.

c. The Board determined that the narrative reason is improper based on a change to regulatory guidance. Accordingly, the Board voted to update the narrative reason for separation to Condition, Not A Disability, with a corresponding separation code of JFV. The applicant has exhausted their appeal options available with ADRB. However, the applicant may still apply to the Army Board for Correction of Military Records. The applicant is responsible for satisfying the burden of proof and providing documents or other evidence sufficient to support the applicant's contention(s) that the discharge was improper or inequitable.

d. Rationale for Decision:

(1) Published Department of Defense guidance indicates the guidance is not intended to interfere or impede on the Board's statutory independence. The Board determines the relative weight of the action that was the basis for the discharge and whether it supports relief or not. In reaching its determination, the Board considers the application, available records and any supporting documents included with the application.

(2) The Board voted not to change the applicant's characterization of service because there were no mitigating factors for the Board to consider. Since the applicant was discharged for pre-service Adjustment Disorder which is service-limiting, **Uncharacterized** is proper and equitable. The discharge was consistent with the procedural and substantive requirements of the regulation, was within the discretion of the separation authority, and the applicant was provided full administrative due process.

(3) The Board voted to change the reason for discharge to Condition, Not A Disability due to change in regulatory guidance, thus the reason for discharge is no longer appropriate. The SPD code associated with the new reason for discharge is JFV.

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

10. BOARD ACTION DIRECTED:

- a. Issue a New DD-214: Yes
- b. Change Characterization to: No Change
- c. Change Reason / SPD Code to: Condition, Not A Disability/JFV
- d. Change RE Code to: No Change
- e. Change Authority to: AR 635-200, paragraph 5-14

Authenticating Official:

3/13/2026

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