

1. Applicant's Name: [REDACTED]**a. Application Date:** 28 July 2021**b. Date Received:** 10 August 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.

b. Applicant Contention(s)/Issue(s): The applicant requests relief contending, in effect suffering from PTSD. The applicant contends also suffering from OBH and had good service. The applicant believes their service should be considered honorable. The applicant contends they are unable to get "Veteran" on driver's license because of the discharge characterization.

c. Board Type and Decision: In a records review conducted on 19 February 2026, and by a 3-0 vote, the Board denied the request upon finding the separation was both proper and equitable.

However, notwithstanding the propriety of the applicant's discharge, the Board found that the applicant's DD Form 214, blocks 25, 26, and 28, contain erroneous entries. The Board directed the following administrative corrections and reissue of the applicant's DD Form 214, as approved by the separation authority:

- a. block 25, separation authority changed to AR 635-200, paragraph 5-14,
- b. block 26, separation code changed to JFV,
- d. block 28, narrative reason for separation changed to Condition, Not a Disability.

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, Paragraph 5-13 / JFX / RE-3 / Uncharacterized

b. Date of Discharge: 29 November 2006

c. Separation Facts:

(1) Date of Notification of Intent to Separate: 20 November 2006

(2) Basis for Separation: The applicant was informed of the following reasons: Personality Disorder. The applicant was evaluated on 2 October 2006 by Behavioral Medicine Division. The applicant was found to have a long-lasting history, poor coping skills and difficulty adapting to new situations. The stressors of the military training environment have exacerbated these traits. The applicant has been diagnosed with Personality Disorder not otherwise specified with Cluster B traits. This condition is a deeply ingrained maladaptive pattern of long-standing duration, which interferes with the soldier's ability to effectively and consistently perform duty.

This condition is not compatible with satisfactory service. Further attempts to train are not justified.

(3) Recommended Characterization: Entry-level Separation

(4) Legal Consultation Date: On 20 November 2006, the applicant waived legal counsel.

(5) Administrative Separation Board: NA

(6) Separation Decision Date / Characterization: 29 November 2006 / Uncharacterized

4. SERVICE DETAILS:

a. Date / Period of Enlistment: 6 June 2006 / 5 years

b. Age at Enlistment / Education / GT Score: 18 / General Educational Development / 108

c. Highest Grade Achieved / MOS / Total Service: E-1 / None / 5 months, 24 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:

(1) Four Developmental Counseling Forms document instances of the applicant being separated under the provisions of AR 635-200, Chapter 5-13, Personality Disorder (4, 13, and 17 October 2006); and for violating Article 92, UCMJ, Failure to Obey a Lawful Order or Regulation, Article 91, UCMJ, Insubordinate Conduct, violating the FLW Regulation 350-13 "I AM A Solider" obligations and duties, and violating Army Seven Core Values.

(2) Memorandum For Commander, 4 October 2006, reflects the applicant was initially counseled for concerning deficiencies under AR 635-200, Chapter 5-13. The applicant signed the memorandum acknowledging they were given ample opportunity to overcome the discrepancies, Personality Disorder, NOS, with Cluster B Traits. The applicant elected they were not going to overcome the discrepancies and waive their opportunity to do so.

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.

(a) Applicant provided: None

(2) AMHRR Listed: Report of Mental Status Evaluation (MSE), 2 October 2006, indicates the applicant was cleared for any administrative actions the command deemed appropriate. The applicant demonstrated the mental capacity to understand and participate in administrative proceedings, was mentally responsible, and met the medical retention requirements of Chapter 3, AR 40-501. The applicant was noted to have a long-standing history of poor coping skills and difficulty adapting to new situations. The provider annotated the stressors of military training environment has exacerbated the traits. The applicant was not seen to be able to become mendable to mental health care that is readily available in the military or further attempts at rehabilitation. If the applicant was retained in the military, the applicant would require a large amount of resources. The applicant was seen to either put themselves or fellow soldiers at risk. The command can experience problems with reliability, suicidality, impulsivity, and overall performance. The applicant was formally diagnosed with Personality Disorder, NOS with Cluster B traits. The recommendation was to expeditiously separate under Chapter 5-13 along with removal from training and no access to weapons.

5. APPLICANT-PROVIDED EVIDENCE: Application for Correction of Military Record; Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty

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. 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.

(c) Paragraph 3-9 states a separation will be described as entry-level with service uncharacterized if processing is initiated while a Soldier is in entry-level status.

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

(a) Paragraph 5-13, in effect at the time, provided 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.

(b) Paragraph 5-13h, stipulates a characterization of a Soldier separated per this paragraph will be characterized as honorable unless an entry-level separation is required under chapter 3, section II. Characterization of service under honorable conditions may be awarded to a Soldier who has been convicted of an offense by general court-martial or who has been convicted by more than one special court-martial in the current enlistment, period of obligated service, or any extension thereof.

(3) Glossary defines entry-level status for RA Soldiers is the first 180 days of continuous AD or the first 180 days of continuous AD following a break of more than 92 days of active military service.

h. 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 identified the SPD code of "JFX" as the appropriate code to assign enlisted Soldiers who were 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. The applicant's Army Military Human Resources Record (AMHRR), the issues, and documents submitted with the application were carefully reviewed.

b. Evidence in the applicant's Army Military Human Resource Record (AMHRR) confirms the applicant was diagnosed by a competent medical authority with a personality disorder:

Personality Disorder, Not Otherwise Specified. The applicant was notified of intent to separate on 20 November 2006, for the applicant was evaluated on 2 October 2006 by Behavioral Medicine Division. The applicant was found to have a long-lasting history, poor coping skills and difficulty adapting to new situations. The stressors of the military training environment have exacerbated these traits. The applicant has been diagnosed with Personality Disorder not otherwise specified with Cluster B traits. This condition is a deeply ingrained maladaptive pattern of long-standing duration, which interferes with the soldier's ability to effectively and consistently perform duty. This condition is not compatible with satisfactory service. Further attempts to train are not justified. The applicant waived legal counsel. The applicant was subject to an MSE conducted on 2 October 2006, confirming the diagnosis. The separation authority considered the MSE and directed an Uncharacterized discharge on 29 November 2006.

c. The applicant contends also suffering from PTSD and OBH. The applicant's AMHRR reflects the applicant was subject to an MSE. The applicant was diagnosed with Personality Disorder, NOS with Cluster B Traits, but had no indication of PTSD. The applicant provided no supporting evidence beyond their statement to support the PTSD contention.

d. The applicant contends good service. The Board evaluated the applicant's service accomplishments and overall quality of service in accordance with DODI 1332.28. The applicant believes their service should be considered honorable.

e. The applicant contends they are unable to get "Veteran" on their driver's license because of the discharge characterization. The applicant provided no supporting evidence beyond their statement to support the contention. The contention falls outside this board's purview.

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 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 was separated for a Personality Disorder in accordance with the separation regulations at the time. The applicant self-asserts PTSD and other BH conditions. There is no medical evidence to support the applicant's asserted PTSD or other BH conditions, but the lack of medical evidence is inconsequential given that there is no misconduct associated with this discharge to potentially excuse or mitigate.

(2) Did the condition exist or experience occur during military service? **N/A**

(3) Does the condition or experience actually excuse or mitigate the discharge? **N/A**

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

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

c. Contention(s):

(1) The applicant contends also suffering from PTSD and OBH. The Board considered this contention and the applicant's assertion of PTSD/OBH, however the Board determined that there is insufficient evidence of said diagnoses in official or medical

records, and the applicant did not provide supporting documentation by a qualified medical professional to provide merit to the claim. Ultimately, the Board found the assertion and lack of evidence irrelevant, as there is no misconduct which to weigh against the conditions, thus the discharge was proper and equitable.

(2) The applicant contends good 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) The applicant contends they are unable to get "Veteran" on their driver's license because of the discharge characterization.

The Board considered this contention and determined that eligibility for Veteran's benefits, to include licensing, 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. In addition, the Board does not grant relief solely to enable these benefits or to gain employment or enhance employment opportunities barring some other impropriety or inequity to outweigh the misconduct.

d. The Board determined that the discharge is, at this time, proper and equitable, in light of the current evidence of record. Though a change to the Narrative Reason is warranted based on change to policy since the applicant was discharged. 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.

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 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 while in ELS for preexisting Personality 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. Therefore, the applicant's discharge was proper and equitable as the applicant's misconduct fell below that level of meritorious service warranted for an upgrade to Honorable discharge

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(3) The Board voted to change the applicant's reason for discharge because, although the Board found the discharge proper and equitable and there were no BH diagnoses which mitigated the misconduct nor sufficient extenuating circumstances to warrant relief, it was found that there was an administrative error making the current reason for discharge improper. The corrected reason for discharge will be Condition, Not a Disability. The SPD code associated with the new reason for discharge is JFV.

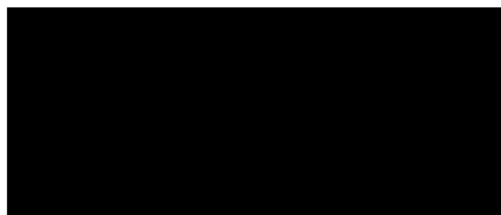
(4) The RE code will not change, as the current code is consistent with the procedural and substantive requirements of the regulation.

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:

2/25/2026

**Legend:**

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