

**1. Applicant's Name:** [REDACTED]**a. Application Date:** 11 August 2021**b. Date Received:** 17 August 2021**c. Representative:** None**2. REQUEST, ISSUES, BOARD TYPE, AND DECISION:****a. Applicant's Requests and Issues:**

(1) The current characterization of service for the period under review is general (under honorable conditions). The applicant requests an upgrade to honorable.

(2) The applicant seeks relief contending they were discharged from the Army for alcohol abuse. They were suffering from Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and other mental problems. They were self-medicating with alcohol to cope with their problems.

(3) They have been sober now for four years and the root problems stemmed from their mental/physical issues. Any misconduct while they served was from their alcohol abuse. They had a clean record before.

**b. Board Type and Decision:** In a records review conducted on 11 April 2025, and by a 5-0 vote, the board determined that the discharge was inequitable based on the applicant's TBI and PTSD due to MST outweighing the basis for separation – misconduct (incapacitated due to an overindulgence in intoxicating liquor, disobeyed an order given by a senior NCO not to consume alcohol, and disobeyed an order by a commissioned officer to not consume alcohol). Accordingly, the board voted to grant relief in the form of an upgrade of the characterization of service to honorable and changed the separation authority to AR 635-200, paragraph 14-12a, the narrative reason for separation to misconduct (minor infractions), with a corresponding separation code of JKN. The board determined the reentry code was proper and equitable and voted not to change it. Please see Section 9 of this document for more detail regarding the board's decision.

**3. DISCHARGE DETAILS:**

**a. Reason / Authority / Codes / Characterization:** Misconduct, (Serious Offense) / Army Regulation 635-200, Paragraph 14-12C / JKQ / RE-3 / General (Under Honorable Conditions)

**b. Date of Discharge:** 27 July 2016

**c. Separation Facts:**

(1) **Date of Notification of Intent to Separate:** 7 July 2016

(2) **Basis for Separation:** The applicant was informed of the following reasons:

- on 10 December 2015, incapacitated due to an overindulgence in intoxicating liquor
- on 7 February 2016, disobeyed an order given by a senior noncommissioned officer (NCO) to not consume any alcohol
- on 9 May 2016, disobeyed an order giving by a commissioned officer to not consume any alcohol

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

**(4) Legal Consultation Date:** 7 July 2016

**(5) Administrative Separation Board:** on 7 July 2016 the applicant waived consideration of their case by an administrative separation board.

**(6) Separation Decision Date / Characterization:** 14 July 2016 / General (Under Honorable Conditions)

**4. SERVICE DETAILS:**

**a. Date / Period of Enlistment:** 22 April 2015 / 4 years

**b. Age at Enlistment / Education / GT Score:** 27 / HS Graduate / 105

**c. Highest Grade Achieved / MOS / Total Service:** E-5 / 35S1O, Signals Collector Analyst / 7 years, 9 months, 12 days

**d. Prior Service / Characterizations:** None

**e. Overseas Service / Combat Service:** Germany / None

**f. Awards and Decorations:** JSCM-2, AGCM-2, NDSM, GWTSM, NCOPDR, ASR, OSR

**g. Performance Ratings:**

- 1 March 2012 – 28 February 2013 / Fully Capable
- 1 March 2013 – 28 February 2014 / Among the Best
- 28 February 2014 – 5 August 2014 / Among the Best
- 5 August 2014 – 4 August 2015 / Fully Capable
- 5 August 2015 – 24 February 2016 – Not Qualified

**h. Disciplinary Action(s) / Evidentiary Record:**

**(1)** A DA Form 2166-9-1 (NCO Evaluation Report) covering the period 5 August 2015 – 24 February 2016, reflects in –

- Part i(i) (Reason for Submission) – Relief for Cause
- Part IV(c) (Character) – “DID NOT MEET STANDARD” with comments – disobeyed numerous direct orders given by a Commissioned Officer; resulted in disciplinary action
- Part IV(d) (Presence) – “DID NOT MEET STANDARD” with comments – consistently late for formation and work call, needed constant supervision; lacked mental endurance; was unable to make right choices in high stress situations
- Part IV(e) (Intellect) – “DID NOT MEET STANDARD” with comments – displayed corrupt judgement and was repeatedly caught in several lies to the Chain of Command
- Part IV(f) (Leads) – “DID NOT MEET STANDARD” with comments – failed to lead and mentor Soldiers; consistently verbally counseled on putting Soldiers before their own needs
- Part IV(g) (Develops) – “DID NOT MEET STANDARD” with comments –
  - as Team Leader, did not develop Soldiers for future success

- team had to routinely seek other NCOs for help with administrative needs and development
- counseled regularly on their toxic attitude and cancerous discontent
- removed from junior Soldiers preview
- Part IV(h) (Achieves) – “DID NOT MEET STANDARD” with comments – unable to lead Soldiers effectively; Soldiers displayed zero respect for their leadership
- Rater Overall Performance – currently five out of five NCOs rated; the rated NCO has been notified of the reason for the relief
- Part V (Senior Rater – Overall Potential) – NOT QUALIFIED with comments –
  - Soldier is receiving a Relief for Cause evaluation due to the outcome of a Field Grade Article 15
  - Soldier does not reflect loyalty to the command
  - removed from interaction with Soldiers due to their infectious toxicity and demeanor
  - at times displayed that they are bright and articulate and has the ability to be a contributing Soldier but they chose to be substandard and disrespectful

**(2)** A DD Form 2808 (Report of Medical Examination) dated 20 June 2016, reflects the examining physician marked “Abnormal” for item 17 (Head, Face, Neck, and Scalp) and commented history of surgical repair, multiple. The examining physician notes the applicant is qualified for service, reflects a profile serial “2” for “P – Physical Capacity or Stamina, which signifies the applicant possess some medical condition or physical defect that may require some activity limitations. Item 77 (Summary of Defects and Diagnoses) reflects hypertension and insomnia. Item 78 (Recommendations) – reflects the applicant’s hypertension is uncontrolled, even with medications and their insomnia condition, they are taking medical treatment and will continue to monitor.

**(3)** A DA Form 3822 (Report of Mental Status Evaluation) dated 21 June 2016, reflects the applicant requires temporary duty limitations and will likely require behavioral health treatment to be restored to full duty; can understand and participate in administrative proceedings; and can appreciate the difference between right and wrong. Section V (Diagnoses) reflects the applicant has Axis I (Psychiatric Conditions) of Alcohol Use Disorder, severe. The Behavioral Health Provider marked the applicant screened negative for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and TBI. The applicant has a condition that is likely to impair their judgment or reliability to protect classified information. It is the professional opinion of the undersigned that the applicant will not respond to command efforts at rehabilitation (such as transfer, disciplinary action, or reclassification), or to any behavioral health treatment methods currently available in the military.

**(4)** A memorandum, Bravo Company, 743rd Military Intelligence Battalion, subject: Separation under Army Regulation 635-200, Paragraph 14-12b, A Pattern of Misconduct, [Applicant], dated 7 July 2016, reflects the applicant’s company commander notified the applicant of the initiation of action to separate them for A Pattern of Misconduct. The reason for the proposed action is described above in paragraph 3c(2). The company commander recommended the applicant’s service be characterized as General (Under Honorable Conditions). On the same day, the applicant acknowledged receipt of the Separation Notice and of the rights available to them.

**(5)** On 7 July 2016, the applicant completed their Election of Rights, acknowledging they have been advised by their consulting counsel of the basis for the contemplated action to separate them for A Pattern of Misconduct, and its effects; of the rights available to them, and of the effect of any action taken by them in waiving their rights. The applicant elected to waive

consideration of their case by an administrative separation board and elected not to submit statements in their behalf. They requested consulting counsel. They understand they may expect to encounter substantial prejudice in civilian life if a general (under honorable conditions) discharge is issued to them. They further understand that as the result of issuance of a discharge that is less than honorable, they may be ineligible for many or all benefits as a veteran under both Federal and State Laws.

**(6)** A memorandum, Bravo Company, 743rd Military Intelligence Battalion, subject: Commander's Report – Proposed Separation under Army Regulation 635-200, Paragraph 14-12c, A Pattern of Misconduct, [Applicant], dated 8 July 2016, reflects the applicant's company commander recommended the applicant be separated from the Army prior to the expiration of their current term of service.

**(a)** The commander states for the description of rehabilitation attempts, the applicant has been treated at multiple inpatient and outpatient facilities for alcoholism; they have gone to Alcoholics Anonymous counseling; and they have received written counseling from all leadership in their chain of command.

**(b)** The applicant receive a Field Grade Article 15 on 23 February 2016 for which they were found guilty of failing to obey a lawful order from an NCO and wrongful prior overindulgence. Their punishment consisted of a reduction in rank/grade from sergeant/E-5 to specialist/E-4, forfeiture of \$1,242.00 pay for two months, and extra duty and restriction for 45 days. The applicant received another Field Grade Article 15 on 6 June 2016 for which they were found guilty of failing to obey a lawful order from a commissioned officer and was drunk and disorderly. Their punishment consisted of a reduction in rank/grade from specialist/E-4 to private/E-1 and extra duty and restriction for 45 days.

**(c)** The commander does not consider it feasible or appropriate to accomplish other disposition due to the applicant's continued disregard for military authority and adherence to orders, continued service is not in their best interest nor is it in the best interest of the U.S. Army.

**(7)** A memorandum, 743rd Military Intelligence Battalion, subject: Separation under Army Regulation 635-200, Paragraph 14-12b, A Pattern of Misconduct, [Applicant], dated 7 July 2016, reflects the applicant's battalion commander recommended the applicant be separated from the Army prior to the expiration of their current term of service and their service be characterized as General (Under Honorable Conditions).

**(8)** A memorandum, 704th Military Intelligence Brigade, subject: Separation of under Army Regulation 635-200, Paragraph 14-12c, A Pattern of Misconduct, [Applicant], dated 14 July 2016, the separation authority reviewed the applicant's separation packet. After careful consideration of all matters, the separation authority directed the applicant be separated from the Army prior to the expiration of their current term of service and directed the applicant's service be characterized as General (Under Honorable Conditions). After reviewing the rehabilitative transfer requirements the separation authority determined the requirements were completed prior to the initiation of this separation.

**(9)** On 27 July 2016, the applicant was discharged accordingly, the DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) reflects the applicant completed 7 years, 9 months, and 12 days of net active service this period. They completed their first full term of service. The DD Form 214 shows in:

- item 4a (Grade, Rate or Rank) – Private
- item 4b (Pay Grade) – E-1

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- item 12i (Effective Date of Pay Grade) – 8 July 2016
- item 18 (Remarks) – in part, Continuous Honorable Active Service – 20081014 - 20151209
- item 24 (Character of Service) – General (Under Honorable Conditions)
- item 25 (Narrative Reason for Separation) – Army Regulation 635-200, paragraph 14-12C
- item 26 (Separation Code) – JKQ
- item 27 (Reentry Code) – 3
- item 28 (Narrative Reason for Separation) – Misconduct, (Serious Offense)

**i. Lost Time / Mode of Return:** NA

**j. Behavioral Health Condition(s):** None

**(1) Applicant provided:** Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Letter, reflecting service connection for PTSD, Bipolar Disorder with psychotic features and TBI injury with aphasia, granted with an evaluation of 70-percent.

**(2) AMHRR Listed:** DA Form 3822 (Report of Mental Status Evaluation) as described in previous paragraph 4h(3).

**5. APPLICANT-PROVIDED EVIDENCE:**

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Records under the Provisions of Title 10, U.S. Code, Section 1552)
- VA Letter

**6. POST SERVICE ACCOMPLISHMENTS:** None submitted with the application.

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

**a.** Title 10, U.S. Code, Section 1553, (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, Title 10 U.S. Code, Section 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 (DoD) 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) 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; Title 10 U.S. Code; Section 1553 and DoD Directive 1332.41 and DoD Instruction 1332.28.

**d.** Army Regulation 600-8-19 (Enlisted Promotions and Reductions) effective 25 May 2017 prescribed the enlisted promotions and reductions functions of the military personnel system. Paragraph 10-1 (Administrative Reductions) stated when the separation authority determines a Soldier is to be discharged from the Service under other than honorable conditions, the Soldier will be reduced to the lowest enlisted grade.

**e.** Army Regulation 635-200 (Active Duty Enlisted Administrative Separations), dated 6 September 2011, set policies, standards, and procedures to ensure the readiness and competency of the force while providing for the orderly administrative separation of Soldiers for a variety of reasons. Readiness is promoted by maintaining high standards of conduct and performance.

**(1)** 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.

**(2)** 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.

**(3)** A Under Other Than Honorable Conditions Discharge is an administrative separation from the Service under conditions other than honorable. It may be issued for misconduct, fraudulent entry, security reasons, or in lieu of trial by court-martial.

**(4)** Chapter 14 (Separation for Misconduct) established policy and prescribed procedures for separating members for misconduct. Action will be taken to separate a member for misconduct when it is clearly established that rehabilitation is impractical or unlikely to succeed. A discharge under other than honorable conditions is normally appropriate for a Soldier discharged under this chapter. However, the separation authority may direct a general discharge if such is merited by the Soldier's overall record. Paragraph 14-12c (Commission of a Service Offense), stated a Soldier is subject to action per this section for commission of a serious military or civilian offense, if the specific circumstances of the offense warrant separation and a punitive discharge is, or would be, authorized for the same or a closely related offense under the Manual for Courts-Martial.

**(5)** Chapter 15 (Secretarial Plenary Authority), currently in effect, 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.

**f.** 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 "JKQ" as the appropriate code to assign enlisted Soldiers who are discharged under the provisions of Army Regulation 635-200, Chapter 14, paragraph 14-12c, misconduct (serious offense).

**g.** 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 DoD Instruction 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.

h. Manual for Courts-Martial, United States (2016 Edition) stated, military law consists of the statutes governing the military establishment and regulations issued thereunder, the constitutional powers of the President and regulations issued thereunder, and the inherent authority of military commanders. Military law includes jurisdiction exercised by courts-martial and the jurisdiction exercised by commanders with respect to nonjudicial punishment. The purpose of military law is to promote justice, to assist in maintaining good order and discipline in the Armed Forces. Appendix 12 (Maximum Punishment Chart) Manual for Courts-Martial shows the maximum punishments include punitive discharge for violating Article 92 (Failure to Obey Order, Regulation), Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) and Article 112 (Drunk on Duty), UCMJ.

## 8. SUMMARY OF FACT(S):

a. The Army Discharge Review Board considers applications for upgrade as instructed by DoD Instruction 1332.28.

b. The available evidence reflects the applicant received a Relief for Cause NCO Evaluation Report; received two occurrences of nonjudicial punishment under the provisions of Article 15, UCMJ; received notification of the initiation of actions to separate them from the U.S. Army for misconduct; waived consideration of their case by an administrative separation board; and was involuntarily discharge from the U.S. Army. The DD Form 214 provides the applicant was discharged with a character of service of General (Under Honorable Conditions) for misconduct, (serious offense). They completed 7 years, 9 months, and 12 days of net active service this period and completed their first full term of service; however, they did not complete their reenlistment service obligation of four years.

c. Chapter 14 establishes policy and prescribes procedures for separation members for misconduct. Specific categories include minor disciplinary infractions, a pattern of misconduct, commission of a serious offense and convictions by civil authorities. Action will be taken to separate a member for misconduct when it is clearly established that rehabilitation is impracticable or is unlikely to succeed. A discharge Under Other Than Honorable Conditions is normally appropriate for a Soldier discharged under this chapter. However, the separation authority may direct a general discharge if such is merited by the Soldier's overall record.

d. The applicant's DA Form 3822 (Report of Mental Status Evaluation) reflects a diagnosis of Alcohol Abuse Disorder and negative screening for PTSD and TBI. The applicant provided VA evidence of service connection for PTSD, Bipolar Disorder with psychotic features and TBI injury with aphasia, granted with an evaluation of 70-percent.

e. Published DoD 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: Post-



Concussion Syndrome following mild TBI, Alcohol Use Disorder, severe; PTSD due to MST (100%SC).

(2) Did the condition exist, or experience occur during military service? **Yes.** The Board's Medical Advisor found diagnosis of Post concussion Syndrome/mTBI was made during service. VA service connection for TBI, PTSD due to MST establishes nexus with military service.

(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 has two mitigating BH conditions, TBI (21 Nov 2015), and PTSD due to MST. As there is an association between TBI, PTSD, MST, self-medication with alcohol and/or illicit drugs, difficulty with authority figures, and avoidance behaviors, there is a nexus between his BH conditions/experiences, his overindulgence in alcohol, his disobeying of orders and his overall poor performance of duty. [Note-diagnosis of Post-Concussion Syndrome is subsumed under diagnosis of mild TBI.]

(4) Does the condition or experience outweigh the discharge? **Yes.** After applying liberal consideration to the evidence, including the Board Medical Advisor opine, the board determined that the applicant's TBI, PTSD due to MST outweighed the applicant's basis for separation - misconduct (disobeyed an order given by a SR NCO (x3) and incapacitated due to an overindulgence in intoxicating liquor).

**b. Response to Contention(s):**

(1) The applicant contends they were discharged from the Army for alcohol abuse. They were suffering from Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and other mental problems. They were self-medicating with alcohol to cope with their problems.

The board considered this contention during proceedings and voted to grant an upgrade based on the applicant's TBI, PTSD due to MST outweighing the applicant's misconduct (disobeyed an order given by a SR NCO (x3) and incapacitated due to an overindulgence in intoxicating liquor). Thus, an upgrade of the characterization of service and narrative reason for separation is warranted. The board voted not to change the reentry code because it was proper and equitable.

(2) The applicant contends they had a clean record before their misconduct. The board considered this contention during proceedings, but ultimately did not address the contention due to an upgrade being granted as out line above in paragraph 9a (4) and 9b (1) of this document.

(3) The applicant contends they have been sober now for four years and the root problems were stemmed from mental/physical issues. Any misconduct while they served was from their alcohol abuse.

The board considered this contention and commended the applicant on the milestone of four years of sobriety. The commitment to facing and overcoming the challenges rooted in mental and physical struggles speaks to the applicant's courage and resilience. Taking accountability for the past and striving for positive change is inspiring.

**c.** The board determined the discharge is inequitable based on the applicant's TBI, PTSD due to MST outweighed the applicant's misconduct: (incapacitated due to an overindulgence in intoxicating liquor, disobeyed an order given by a senior NCO not to consume alcohol, and disobeyed an order by a commissioned officer to not consume alcohol). Therefore, the board voted to grant relief in the form of an upgrade to the characterization of service to Honorable and directed the issue of a new DD Form 214 changing the separation authority to AR 635-200, paragraph 14-12a, the narrative reason for separation to Misconduct (Minor Infractions), and the

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separation code to JKN. The board determined the reentry code was proper and equitable and voted not to change it.

**d. Rationale for Decision:**

(1) The board voted to change the applicant's characterization of service to Honorable because the applicant's TBI, PTSD due to MST outweighed the applicant's misconduct (incapacitated due to an overindulgence in intoxicating liquor, disobeyed an order given by a senior NCO not to consume alcohol, and disobeyed an order by a commissioned officer to not consume alcohol). Thus, the prior characterization is no longer appropriate.

(2) The board voted to change the reason for discharge to Misconduct (Minor Infractions) under the same rationale, thus the reason for discharge is no longer appropriate. The SPD code associated with the new reason for discharge is JKN.

(3) 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:**

**e. Issue a New DD-214: Yes**

**f. Change Characterization to: Honorable**

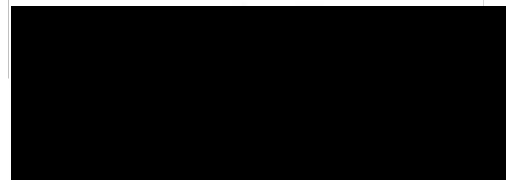
**g. Change Reason / SPD code to: Misconduct (Minor Infractions)/JKN**

**h. Change RE Code to: No Change**

**i. Change Authority to: AR 635-200, paragraph 14-12a**

**Authenticating Official:**

4/23/2025



**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

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