

1. Applicant's Name: [REDACTED]

- a. Application Date: 7 October 2021
- b. Date Received: 7 October 2021
- c. Counsel: None.

2. REQUEST, ISSUES, BOARD TYPE, AND DECISION:

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

The applicant states in effect, they only have a DUI in the service record. They were denied a waiver because of pattern of misconduct. They have no other misconduct as they were deployed one month prior to the incident for seven months, they just want to reenlist again and serve out their career.

- b. **Board Type and Decision:** In a records review conducted on 30 May 2025, and by a 5-0 vote, The Board found the discharge too harsh for one-time DUI and the applicant has in-service factors of length and quality that outweigh the DUI offense. 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 separation code to JKN. The Board determined the RE code was proper and equitable and voted not to change it.

*Please see **Board Discussion and Determination** section for more detail regarding the Board's decision.*

*(Board member names available upon request)*

3. DISCHARGE DETAILS:

- a. **Reason / Authority / Codes / Characterization:** Misconduct (Serious Offense) / AR 635-200, CH 14-12c / JKQ / RE-3 / Under Honorable Conditions (General).

- b. **Date of Discharge:** 29 March 2018

- c. **Separation Facts:** AMHRR

(1) **Date of Notification of Intent to Separate:** 19 January 2018

(2) **Basis for Separation:** On 28 October 2017 the applicant operated a vehicle on Fort Bragg, North Carolina, while their BAC was .09%.

(3) **Recommended Characterization:** Honorable

(4) **Legal Consultation Date:** Waived 23 January 2018

(5) **Administrative Separation Board:** N/A

(6) **Separation Decision Date / Characterization:** 8 February 2018 / GD

**4. SERVICE DETAILS:**

- a. Date / Period of Enlistment:** 27 October 2014 / 4 years.
- b. Age at Enlistment / Education / GT Score:** 19 / NIF / 99
- c. Highest Grade Achieved / MOS / Total Service:** E-4 (Specialist) / 25Q10 Multichannel Transmission System Operator / 3 years, 5 months, 3 days.
- d. Prior Service / Characterizations:** None.
- e. Overseas Service / Combat Service:** None.
- f. Awards and Decorations:** AGCM, NDSM, GWTSM, ASR
- g. Performance Ratings:** N/A
- h. Disciplinary Action(s) / Evidentiary Record:**

(1) A Law Enforcement Report indicates that on 28 October 2017 the applicant was apprehended for impaired driving. They were issued a citation, their on post driving privileges were suspended and they were advised of their mandatory court appearance.

(2) An Army Substance Abuse Program (ASAP) Enrollment document indicates that the applicant was command referred to ASAP.

(3) On 30 November 2017 the applicant received a General Officer Memorandum of Reprimand for driving while impaired. Their BAC (Blood Alcohol Content) was .09%.

(4) On 19 January 2018 the applicant's immediate commander notified them of their intent to separate them for commission of a serious offense. The commander recommended an honorable characterization of service. The applicant acknowledged the commander's notification and basis for separation, they waived consulting with counsel and completed their election of rights.

(5) On 7 February 2018 the chain of command concurred with the commander's discharge recommendation, with a general, under honorable conditions characterization recommendation.

(6) On 8 February 2018 the appropriate authority approved the separation and directed a general, under honorable conditions characterization of service.

(7) A Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active-Duty document indicates that the applicant was discharged on 29 March 2018, they completed 3 years, 5 months, and 3 days of their contractual obligation.

- i. Lost Time / Mode of Return:** None.
- j. Behavioral Health Condition(s):** None.

**(1) Applicant provided:**

**(2) AMHRR Listed:**

**5. APPLICANT-PROVIDED EVIDENCE:** An online DD Form 293 (Record Review) application.

**6. POST SERVICE ACCOMPLISHMENTS:** None submitted in support of their 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.** 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.

**c.** Army Regulation 635-200 provides the basic authority for the separation of enlisted personnel provides the authorized types of characterization of service or description of separation.

**(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)** An Under other-than-honorable-conditions discharge is an administrative separation from the Service under conditions other than honorable and it may be issued for misconduct, fraudulent entry, security reasons, or in lieu of trial by court martial based on certain circumstances or patterns of behavior or acts or omissions that constitute a significant departure from the conduct expected of Soldiers in the Army.

**(4)** Except as otherwise indicated in this regulation, commanders must make maximum use of counseling and rehabilitation before determining that a Soldier has no potential for further

useful service and, therefore, should be separated. In this regard, commanders will ensure that adequate counseling and rehabilitative measures are taken before initiating separation proceedings for the following reasons. Rehabilitative requirements are not required for individuals separated under Chapter 14-12c.

- Involuntary separation due to parenthood
- Personality disorder
- Other designated physical or mental conditions
- Entry-level performance and conduct
- Unsatisfactory performance
- Minor disciplinary infractions or a pattern of misconduct
- Failure to meet body fat standards.

**(5)** Chapter 14 establishes policy and prescribes procedures for separating members for misconduct. Specific categories include minor disciplinary infractions, a pattern of misconduct, and commission of a serious offense, to include abuse of illegal drugs, convictions by civil authorities and desertion or being absent without leave. 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. A soldier subject to this discharge under this regulation will be considered and processed for discharge even though he/she has filed an appeal or has stated his/her intention to do so. Paragraph 14-12c, states 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.

**(6)** Chapter 15 provides explicitly for separation under the prerogative of the Secretary of the Army. Secretarial plenary separation authority is exercised sparingly and seldom delegated. Ordinarily, it is used when no other provision of this regulation applies, and early separation is clearly in the Army's best interest. Separations under this paragraph are effective only if approved in writing by the Secretary of the Army or the Secretary's approved designee as announced in updated memoranda. Secretarial separation authority is normally exercised on a case-by-case basis.

**d.** Army Regulation 600-85 (Army Substance Abuse Program (ASAP)) governs the program and identifies Army policy on alcohol and other drug abuse, and responsibilities. The ASAP is a command program that emphasizes readiness and personal responsibility. It provides the ultimate decision regarding separation or retention of abusers is the responsibility of the Soldier's chain of command. Abuse of alcohol or the use of illicit drugs by military personnel is inconsistent with Army values and the standards of performance, discipline, and readiness necessary to accomplish the Army's missions.

**e.** Army Regulation 635-5-1 (Separation Program Designator (SPD) Codes) provides the specific authorities (regulatory or directive), reasons for separating Soldiers from active duty, and the SPD codes to be entered on the DD Form 214. It identifies the SPD code of "JKQ" as the appropriate code to assign enlisted Soldiers who are discharged under the provisions of Army Regulation 635-200, Chapter 14, paragraph 12c, misconduct (serious offense).

**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
- 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

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

- a.** The applicant requests a narrative reason change, SPD code change and a reentry code change. The applicant's DD-214 indicates that the applicant received Reentry code 3, and a JKQ separation code.
- b.** Based on the available evidence the applicant enlisted in the army at the age of 19, and advanced to the rank of Specialist. On 28 October 2017 the applicant was operating a vehicle that approached an ACP (Access Control Point). An odor of alcohol was detected during the identification check. Standardized field sobriety tests were conducted, they applicant was apprehended and after consenting to testing their BAC registered at 0.09%. The applicant received a GOMOR, and they were subsequently processed for administrative separation.
- c.** The applicant was notified of the intent to separate them for commission of a serious offense, they acknowledged they understood the basis for separation under the provisions AR 635-200, CH 14-12c, they waived consulting with counsel and the appropriate authority approved the separation. A properly constituted DD Form 214, authenticated by the applicant's signature indicates they were discharged under the provisions of AR 635-200, CH 14-12c, by reason of misconduct (Serious Offense) with a general, under honorable conditions characterization of service on 29 March 2018.
- d.** The applicant contends they did not have a pattern of misconduct, and they had no other misconduct prior to or after their DUI. The applicants AMHRR indicates that the DUI was their only misconduct during their enlistment period.
- e.** 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? **No.** The Board's Medical Advisor reviewed DoD, and VA medical records and found no mitigating BH diagnoses on the applicant. The applicant provided no documents or testimony of a condition or experience, that, when applying liberal consideration, could have excused, or mitigated a discharge.

**(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: None.

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

**(1)** The applicant states in effect, they only have a DUI in the service record. They were denied a waiver because of pattern of misconduct. They have no other misconduct as they were deployed one month prior to the incident for seven months, they just want to reenlist again and serve out their career. The Board considered this contention and found that the applicant's length and quality outweigh a single DUI and voted to grant relief.

**d.** The Board found the discharge too harsh for one-time DUI and the applicant has in-service factors of length and quality that outweigh the DUI offense. 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 separation code to JKN. The Board determined the RE code was proper and equitable and voted not to change it.

**e.** Rationale for Decision:

**(1)** The Board voted to upgrade the applicant's characterization of service to Honorable. The Board determined the current characterization was too harsh given the applicant's length and quality of service.

**(2)** The Board voted to change the applicant's reason for discharge to Misconduct (Minor Infractions) and the accompanying SPD code to JKN, based on the same rationale.

**(3)** 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**  
**AR20210015610**

**10. BOARD ACTION DIRECTED:**

- a. Issue a New DD-214 / Separation Order:** Yes
- b. Change Characterization to:** Honorable
- c. Change Reason / SPD code to:** Misconduct(Minor Infractions) / JKN
- d. Change RE Code to:** No Change
- e. Change Authority to:** No Change

**Authenticating Official:**

6/26/2025



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