

1. Applicant's Name: [REDACTED]

- a. **Application Date:** 20 October 2021
- b. **Date Received:** 20 October 2021
- c. **Counsel:** None

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

a. **Applicant Requests:** The current characterization of service for the period under review is general, under honorable conditions. The applicant requests upgrade to honorable and a narrative reason change.

b. **Applicant Contention(s)/Issue(s):** The applicant requests relief contending, in effect the applicant's discharge was expedited due to overseas deployment. The applicant is 100 percent service connected for Schizophrenia. Also, the applicant needs the upgrade to continue education with the G.I. Bill. The applicant contends discrimination, hatred, lies, and mental abuse. The applicant also contends to have had good service.

c. **Board Type and Decision:** In a records review conducted on 12 November 2025, and by a 3-0 vote, the Board determined the discharge is inequitable based on the applicant's Schizophrenia, MDD, and Schizotypal Personality Disorder mitigating the failures to show and inability to follow orders. Therefore, the Board voted to grant relief in the form of an upgrade of the characterization of service to Honorable and changed to the separation authority to AR 635-200, paragraph 5-14, 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:** Pattern of misconduct / AR 635-200, paragraph 14-12B / JKA / RE-3 / General (Under Honorable Conditions)

b. **Date of Discharge:** 12 December 2019

c. Separation Facts:

(1) **Date of Notification of Intent to Separate:** 26 September 2019

(2) **Basis for Separation:** The applicant was informed of the following reasons: failed to show up on time or completely missed several hit times as put out by leadership, and having displayed the inability to follow orders from leadership.

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

(4) **Legal Consultation Date:** NIF

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

(6) Separation Decision Date / Characterization: 22 November 2019 / General
(Under Honorable Conditions)

4. SERVICE DETAILS:

- a. Date / Period of Enlistment Under Review:** 28 August 2018 / 3 years and 16 weeks
- b. Age at Enlistment / Education / GT Score:** 28 / HS Graduate / 103
- c. Highest Grade Achieved / MOS / Total Service:** E-2 / 12B1O, Combat Engineer / 1 year, 3 months, 15 days
- d. Prior Service / Characterizations:** None
- e. Overseas Service / Combat Service:** None
- f. Awards and Decorations:** NDSM, GWOTSM, ASR
- g. Performance Ratings:** N/A
- h. Disciplinary Action(s) / Evidentiary Record:** Eight developmental counseling forms for failure to report.
- i. Lost Time / Mode of Return:** N/A
- 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: Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) Summary of benefits letter, behavioral health services records (82 pages).

(2) AMHRR provided: None

5. APPLICANT-PROVIDED EVIDENCE: Picture of Veterans of Foreign Wars parade; DVA Summary of benefits letter; DVA letter; medical records.

6. POST SERVICE ACCOMPLISHMENTS: The applicant states the applicant worked overseas as a contractor (armed guard) in Kosovo, volunteered in Ukraine, and the applicant was featured in the Wall Street Journal, and continued education.

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.
- 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.

g. 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) 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) 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.

(2) 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) Paragraph 14-3 prescribes 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.

(b) Paragraph 14-12b, addresses a pattern of misconduct consisting of either discreditable involvement with civilian or military authorities or discreditable conduct and conduct prejudicial to good order and discipline including conduct violating the accepted standards of personal conduct found in the Uniform Code of Military Justice, Army Regulations, the civilian law and time-honored customs and traditions of the Army.

(3) 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 "JKA" as the appropriate code to assign enlisted Soldiers who are discharged under the provisions of Army Regulation 635-200, Chapter 14, Pattern of Misconduct.

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 also requests a medical discharge. The applicant's Army Military Human Resources Record (AMHRR), the issues, and documents submitted with the application were carefully reviewed.

b. The applicant requests the narrative reason be changed. The applicant was separated under the provisions of AR 635-200, Chapter 14-12b, with a general (under honorable conditions), and a RE code of 3. The narrative reason specified by Army Regulations for a discharge under this chapter is "Pattern of Misconduct" and the separation code is "JKA." Army Regulation 635-5, Separation Documents governs the preparation of the DD Form 214 and dictates the entry of the narrative reason for separation, entered in block 28 and separation code, entered in block 26 of the form, will be as listed in tables 2-2 or 2-3 of AR 635-5-1, Separation Program Designator (SPD) Codes. The regulation stipulates no deviation is authorized. There is no provision for any other reason to be entered under this regulation

c. The applicant contends the applicant's discharge was expedited due to overseas deployment. The applicant's AMHRR is void of evidence pertaining to this contention, nor does the applicant provide evidence.

d. The applicant contends good service. The Board considered the applicant's service accomplishments and the quality of service according to the DODI 1332.28.

e. The applicant contends discrimination, hatred, lies, and mental abuse. The applicant did not submit any evidence, other than the applicant's statement, to support the contention. There is no evidence in the AMHRR the applicant sought assistance or reported the harassment.

f. The applicant's contention for education benefits with the G.I. Bill does 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.

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.** 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: Major Depressive Disorder, Schizophrenia, Other Specified Personality Disorder, Schizotypal Personality Disorder, and Psychosis, Disorganized Schizophrenia.

(2) Did the condition exist, or experience occur during military service? **Yes.** The Board's Medical Advisor found evidence of BH diagnoses and multiple hospitalizations, and applicant is 100% service connected by the VA for Schizophrenia.

(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 had in-service diagnoses of Schizophrenia, MDD, and Schizotypal Personality Disorder, and is 100% service connected for Schizophrenia. There is a nexus between the applicant's misconduct related to failing to report and inability to follow orders from leadership and BH condition.

(4) Does the condition or experience outweigh the discharge? **Yes.** The Board concurred with the opinion of the Board's Medical Advisor, a voting member. As a result, the ADRB applied liberal consideration and found that the applicant's Schizophrenia, MDD, and Schizotypal Personality Disorder outweighed the failures to show and inability to follow orders basis for separation for the aforementioned reason(s).

b. Prior Decisions Cited: N/A

c. Response to Contention(s):

(1) The applicant also contends to have had good service. The Board considered this contention during proceedings and the totality of the applicant's service record, but ultimately did not address the contention due to an upgrade being granted based on the applicant's Schizophrenia, MDD, and Schizotypal Personality Disorder mitigating the failures to show and inability to follow orders.

(2) The applicant requests relief contending, in effect the applicant's discharge was expedited due to overseas deployment. The Board considered this contention but determined that the contention is not a matter upon which the Army Discharge Review Board grants a change in discharge. The issue raises no matter of fact, law, procedure, or discretion related to the discharge process, nor is it associated with the discharge when it was issued.

(3) The applicant contends discrimination, hatred, lies, and mental abuse. The Board considered this contention during proceedings and the totality of the applicant's service record, but ultimately did not address the contention due to an upgrade being granted based on the applicant's Schizophrenia, MDD, and Schizotypal Personality Disorder mitigating the failures to show and inability to follow orders.

d. The Board determined the discharge is inequitable based on the applicant's Schizophrenia, MDD, and Schizotypal Personality Disorder mitigating the failures to show and inability to follow orders. Therefore, the Board voted to grant relief in the form of an upgrade of the characterization of service to Honorable and changed to the separation authority to AR 635-200, paragraph 5-14, the narrative reason for separation to Condition, Not A Disability, with a corresponding separation code of JFV.

e. Rationale for Decision:

ARMY DISCHARGE REVIEW BOARD CASE REPORT AND DIRECTIVE

AR20210015765

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

(2) The Board voted to change the applicant's characterization of service to Honorable because the applicant's Schizophrenia, MDD, and Schizotypal Personality Disorder mitigated the failures to show and inability to follow orders. Thus, the prior characterization is no longer appropriate.

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

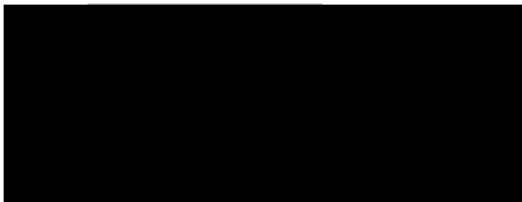
(4) The RE code will not change, as the current code is consistent with the procedural and substantive requirements of the regulation.

10. BOARD ACTION DIRECTED:

- a. **Issue a New DD-214:** Yes
- b. **Change Characterization to:** Honorable
- 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:

12/10/2025



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
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