

1. Applicant's Name: [REDACTED]**a. Application Date:** 21 May 2021**b. Date Received:** 2 June 2021**c. Counsel:****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 an upgrade to honorable.

b. Applicant Contention(s)/Issue(s): The applicant requests relief contending, in effect, discharge was unjust, and an upgrade would provide access to educational benefits.

c. Board Type and Decision: In a records review conducted on 28 January 2026, and by a 3-0 vote, the Board granted the request upon finding the separation was inequitable. The Board considered the applicant's statement, record of service, the frequency and nature of misconduct, and the reason for separation. The board determined the basis for the applicant's separation was failing the Army Physical Fitness Test and was not a result of misconduct. The Board determined the discharge was inequitable based on the applicant's length and quality of service. Therefore, the Board voted to grant relief in the form of an upgrade of the characterization of service to Honorable. 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: Physical Standards / AR 635-200, Chapter 13-2e / JFT / RE-3 / General (Under Honorable Conditions)

b. Date of Discharge: 5 May 2020

c. Separation Facts:

(1) Date of Notification of Intent to Separate: 31 March 2020

(2) Basis for Separation: The applicant was informed of the following reasons: the applicant failed two consecutive record Army Physical Fitness Tests (APFT).

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

(4) Legal Consultation Date: 24 March 2020

(5) Administrative Separation Board: NA

(6) Separation Decision Date / Characterization: 22 April 2020

4. SERVICE DETAILS:

a. Date / Period of Enlistment/Reenlistment Under Review: 11 July 2016 / 5 years, 35 weeks

b. Age at Enlistment / Education / GT Score: 18 / HS Graduate / 95

c. Highest Grade Achieved / MOS / Total Service: E-4 / 14T10, Patriot Missile Crewmember Operator-Maintainer / 3 years, 9 months, 25 days

d. Prior Service / Characterizations: None

e. Overseas Service / Combat Service: Korea / None

f. Awards and Decorations: AGCM, NDSM, GWOTSM, KDSM, ASR

g. Performance Ratings: NA

h. Disciplinary Action(s) / Evidentiary Record:

(1) Four DA Forms 4856 (Developmental Counseling Form), various discussions reference the results of noncompliance of the Army Bodyfat Composition standards and failure to meet Army APFT standards.

(2) DD Form 2807-1 (Report of Medical History) dated 2 March 2020, the examining medical physician noted in the comments section: healthcare issue identified by the applicant was being treated and a full recovery was expected.

(3) DD Form 2808 (Report of Medical Examination) dated 2 March 2020, the examining medical physician noted in the comments section: the applicant was qualified for service and the medical physician recommended the applicant follow-up with primary care manager for new images of tuft fracture.

(4) Enlisted Record Brief (ERB), 6 May 2020, reflects the applicant was flagged effective 16 January 2020 for APFT failure (JA), Noncompliance with the Army Body Composition Program (KA) and Involuntary Separation or Discharge and was ineligible for reenlistment due to pending separation (9V).

(5) Orders Number 119-0513 dated 28 April 2020, reflect the applicant was to be reassigned to the U.S. Army Transition Point and discharged on 5 May 2020 from the Regular Army.

(6) The applicant's DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) indicates the applicant had not completed the first full term of service. The applicant was discharged under the authority of AR 635-200, paragraph 13-2e, with a narrative reason of Physical Standards. The DD Form 214 was not authenticated with the applicant's signature.

i. Lost Time / Mode of Return: None

j. Behavioral Health Condition(s): The following documents have been provided to the ARBA Medical Advisor, if applicable. See **"Board Discussion and Determination"** for Medical Advisor Details.

(1) **Applicant provided:** None

(2) **AMHRR provided:** None

5. APPLICANT-PROVIDED EVIDENCE: DD Form 293 (Application for the Review of Discharge).

6. POST SERVICE ACCOMPLISHMENTS: None submitted in support of 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 waivable and nonwaivable 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 waivable. Eligibility: Ineligible unless a waiver is granted.
- RE-4 Applies to: Person separated from last period of service with a nonwaivable 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 (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 3-5c, provides the reasons for separation, including the specific circumstances that form the basis for the separation, will be considered on the issue of

characterization. As a general matter, characterization will be based upon a pattern of behavior other than an isolated incident. There are circumstances, however, in which the conduct or performance of duty reflected by a single incident provides the basis for characterization.

(b) 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.

(c) 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 13 contains the policy and outlines the procedures for separating individuals for unsatisfactory performance, and provides, in pertinent part, commanders will separate a member under this Chapter when, in the commander's judgment, the member will not develop sufficiently to participate satisfactorily in further training and/or become a satisfactory Soldier.

(a) Paragraph 13-2c (previously paragraph 13-2e) states in pertinent part, separation proceedings will be initiated for Soldiers without medical limitations that have two consecutive failures of the Army Physical Fitness Test. The reason for discharge will be shown as physical standards.

(b) Paragraph 13-8 stipulates the service of Soldiers separated because of unsatisfactory performance will be characterized as honorable or under honorable conditions as warranted by their military records.

(3) 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. If Secretarial Authority is granted normally correct the record to show the following:

- Separation Authority: Army Regulation 635-200, Chapter 15
- Separation Code: JFF
- Reenlistment Code: RE1
- Narrative Reason for Separation: Secretarial Plenary Authority
- Character of Service: Honorable

(4) 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 "JFT" as the appropriate code to assign enlisted Soldiers who are discharged under the provisions of Army Regulation 635-200, in effect at the time, Chapter 13-2e, Physical standards.

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. The applicant acknowledged notification of administrative separation with a general (under honorable conditions) discharge recommendation on 31 March 2020 and was afforded an opportunity to consult with legal counsel in accordance with COVID-19 protection guidance. On 22 April 2020, the separation authority reviewed the separation action and all supporting documents pertaining to the applicant and approved the applicant's administrative separation and characterized the applicant's service as General (Under Honorable Conditions).

c. The applicant contends administrative discharge was unjust and inequitable punishment for the committed offense or offenses. Army Regulation 635-200 establishes the separation policy to uphold readiness by enforcing standards of performance and conduct. Soldiers who fail to meet discipline and performance expectations or lack potential for continued military service face separation to maintain morale and operational effectiveness. However, evidence in the AMHRR confirms the applicant's discharge was administrative under AR 635-200, Chapter 13-2e.

d. The applicant contends an upgrade would provide access to educational benefits. Eligibility for veterans' benefits, including Post-9/11 or Montgomery GI Bill educational assistance, does not fall under the purview of the Army Discharge Review Board. The applicant should contact a local Department of Veterans Affairs office for further assistance.

e. The applicant's DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) indicates the applicant had not completed the first full term of service. The applicant was discharged under the authority of AR 635-200, paragraph 13-2e, with a narrative reason of Physical Standards. The DD Form 214 was not authenticated with the applicant's signature.

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 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: **N/A**

c. Response to Contentions:

(1) Contention 1: administrative discharge was unjust. The Board recognizes and appreciates the applicant's willingness to serve and considered this contention during board proceedings along with the totality of the applicant's service record. In a records review conducted on 28 January 2026, and by a 3-0 vote, the Board granted the request upon finding the separation was inequitable. The Board considered the applicant's statement, record of service, the frequency and nature of misconduct, and the reason for separation. The board determined the basis for the applicant's separation was failing the Army Physical Fitness Test was not a result of misconduct. The Board determined the discharge was inequitable based on the applicant's length and quality of service. Therefore, the Board voted to grant relief in the form of an upgrade of the characterization of service to Honorable.

(2) Contention 2: an upgrade would provide access to educational benefits. The Board considered this contention and determined that eligibility for Veteran's benefits, to include 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.

d. In a records review conducted on 28 January 2026, and by a 3-0 vote, the Board granted the request upon finding the separation was inequitable. The Board considered the applicant's statement, record of service, the frequency and nature of misconduct, and the reason for separation. The board determined the basis for the applicant's separation was failing the Army Physical Fitness Test was not a result of misconduct. The Board determined the discharge was inequitable based on the applicant's length and quality of service. Therefore, the Board voted to grant relief in the form of an upgrade of the characterization of service to Honorable.

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) In a records review conducted on 28 January 2026, and by a 3-0 vote, the Board granted the request upon finding the separation was inequitable. The Board considered the applicant's statement, record of service, the frequency and nature of misconduct, and the reason for separation. The board determined the basis for the applicant's separation was failing the Army Physical Fitness Test was not a result of misconduct. The Board determined the discharge was inequitable based on the applicant's length and quality of service. Therefore, the Board voted to grant relief in the form of an upgrade of the characterization of service to Honorable.

(3) The Board voted not to change the applicant's reason for discharge or accompanying SPD code under the same pretexts, as the reason the applicant was discharged was both proper and equitable.

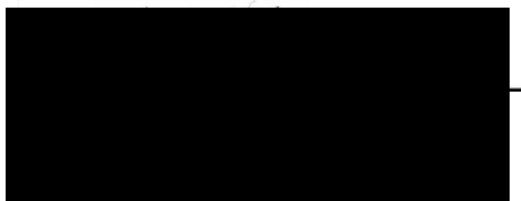
(4) The RE code will not change, as the current code is consistent with the procedural and substantive requirements of the regulation.

10. BOARD ACTION DIRECTED:

- a. Issue a New DD-214: Yes
- b. Change Characterization to: Honorable
- c. Change Reason / SPD Code to: No Change
- d. Change RE Code to: No Change
- e. Change Authority to: No Change

Authenticating Official:

2/18/2026



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