

1. Applicant's Name: [REDACTED]**a. Application Date:** 20 May 2021**b. Date Received:** 7 June 2021**c. Counsel:** None**2. REQUEST, ISSUES, BOARD TYPE, AND DECISION:**

a. Applicant Requests: The current characterization of service for the period under review is uncharacterized. The applicant requests a medical discharge and a change to the separation code.

b. Applicant Contention(s)/Issue(s): The applicant requests relief contending, in effect, while in processing for the Army medical shots were given which caused ongoing sickness of nose bleeds and vomiting. The applicant slept next to the drill sergeant duty desk for observation, when trying to sleep someone got on top of the applicant. The applicant was hospitalized for (3) weeks on the mental ward which caused aggressiveness and demanding behavior. The applicant witnessed the removal of a deceased patient while in the mental ward. The medication the applicant was given cause hallucination and risqué behavior. The applicant states a discharge was given when only proper care was needed. The applicant has not been able to work since 2018 due to anxiety, tiredness and restlessness. The applicant only talks to family members and had only (1) friend. The medical issues did not exist prior to entering the military and a medical discharge should be issues.

c. Board Type and Decision: In a records review conducted on 12 February 2026, and by a 3-0 vote, the Board denied the request upon finding the separation was both proper and equitable. The Board carefully considered the applicant's request, supporting documents, evidence in the records, a medical review, and published Department of Defense guidance for liberal consideration of discharge upgrade requests. In accordance with AR 635-200 and based on the applicant's official record, the applicant was separated while in an entry level status and an Uncharacterized discharge is the proper characterization of service. There was no identification of evidence that proved inequity or impropriety and there was no unusual circumstance that required the DCS, G-1 to provide an exception and authorize an Honorable characterization. Therefore, no change is warranted. 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: Failed Medical/Physical/Procurement Standards / AR 635-200, Paragraph 5-11 / JFW / RE-3 / Uncharacterized

b. Date of Discharge: 7 June 2018**c. Separation Facts:**

(1) Date Entrance Physical Standards Board (EPSBD) convened: 16 May 2018

(2) EPSBD Findings: The findings of the evaluating physicians indicate the applicant does not meet retention standards and was medically unfit for appointment or enlistment in

accordance with current medical fitness standards and in the opinion of the evaluating physicians the condition existed prior to service. The applicant was diagnosed with: Psychotic Disorder NOS.

(3) Date Applicant Reviewed and Concurred with the Findings, and Requested Discharge without Delay: DA Form 4707 signed by applicant but not dated

(4) Separation Decision Date / Characterization: 21 May 2018 / uncharacterized

4. SERVICE DETAILS:

- a. **Date / Period of Enlistment Under Review:** 23 April 2018 / 3 years, 17 weeks
- b. **Age at Enlistment / Education / GT Score:** 20 years / HS Graduate / 86
- c. **Highest Grade Achieved / MOS / Total Service:** E-2 / None / 1 month, 15 days
- d. **Prior Service / Characterizations:** None
- e. **Overseas Service / Combat Service:** None
- f. **Awards and Decorations:** None
- g. **Performance Ratings:** NA
- h. **Disciplinary Action(s) / Evidentiary Record:**

(1) Entrance Physical Standards Board (EPSBD) Proceedings, 16 May 2018, indicate the applicant was diagnosed with psychotic disorder NOS. The condition existed before service, and if the applicant's mental health problem had been detected at the time of enlistment, it would have prevented military enlistment per Army Regulation 40-501, Chapter 2.

(2) One Developmental Counseling Form, 18 May 2018, document the applicant being informed of being separated from the U.S. Army in accordance with Army Regulation 40-501, Chapter 2-27; current or history of other mental disorders will interfere with or prevent satisfactory performance of military duty.

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: A comprehensive 50-page collection of medical documentation detailing pre-service, in-service, and post-service evaluation and treatment.

(2) AMHRR Listed: Report of Mental Status Evaluation (MSE), 16 May 2018, provides the applicant was diagnosed with psychotic disorder NOS. However, the applicant understood the difference between right from wrong and could participate in administrative separation proceedings.

(a) EPSBD: The findings of the evaluating physicians indicate the applicant does not meet retention standards and was medically unfit for appointment or enlistment in accordance with current

medical fitness standards and in the opinion of the evaluating physicians the condition existed prior to service. The applicant was diagnosed with: Psychotic Disorder.

5. APPLICANT-PROVIDED EVIDENCE: Application for the review of discharge, Self-Authored Statement with Photo, (6) support letters, DD Form 2808, Behavioral Health discharge summary, DD Form 2697, DD for 2807-1, DA Form 4707, DA Form 4856, DD Form 214, (3) Family Medicine (FM)-Office Visit Reports, (2) Psychiatrist Evaluation Admission History and Examination with Discharge Orders, (13pg) Cordova Psychiatric Associates-Office Visits

6. POST SERVICE ACCOMPLISHMENTS: None 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 waiverable and nonwaiverable separations. Table 3-1, defines reentry eligibility (RE) codes:

- RE-1 Applies to: Person completing his or her term of active service who is considered qualified to reenter the U.S. Army. Eligibility: Qualified for enlistment if all other criteria are met.

- RE-3 Applies to: Person who is not considered fully qualified for reentry or continuous service at time of separation, but disqualification is waiverable. Eligibility: Ineligible unless a waiver is granted.

g. Army Regulation 635-200 (Active Duty Enlisted Administrative Separations), provides the basic authority for the separation of enlisted personnel.

(1) Chapter 3, Section II provides the authorized types of characterization of service or description of separation.

(a) Paragraph 3-5c, 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) Paragraph 3-7a states an Honorable discharge is a separation with honor and is appropriate when the quality of the Soldier's service generally has met the standards of acceptable conduct and performance of duty for Army personnel or is otherwise so meritorious that any other characterization would be clearly inappropriate.

(c) Paragraph 3-7b states a general discharge is a separation from the Army under honorable conditions and is issued to a Soldier whose military record is satisfactory but not sufficiently meritorious to warrant an honorable discharge.

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

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

(a) Paragraph 5-1, states that a Soldier being separated under this paragraph will be awarded a characterization of service of honorable, general (under honorable conditions), or an uncharacterized description of service if in entry-level status.

(b) Paragraph 5-10 (previously paragraph 5-11), specifically provides that Soldiers who were not medically qualified under procurement medical fitness standards, when accepted for enlistment, or who became medically disqualified under these standards prior to entry on active duty or active-duty training or initial entry training will be separated. A medical proceeding, regardless of the date completed, must establish that a medical condition was identified by appropriate medical authority within six months of the Soldier's initial entrance on active duty, that the condition would have permanently or temporarily disqualified the Soldier for entry into the military service had it been detected at that time, and the medical condition does not disqualify the Soldier from retention in the service under the provisions of AR 40-501, Chapter 3.

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

h. Army Regulation 635-5-1 (Separation Program Designator (SPD) Codes), in effect at the time, provided the specific authorities (regulatory or directive), reasons for separating Soldiers from active duty, and the SPD codes to be entered on the DD Form 214. It identifies the SPD code of "JFW" as the appropriate code to assign enlisted Soldiers who are discharged under the

provisions of Army Regulation 635-200, Chapter 5-11, Failed Medical/ Physical/ Procurement 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 and a separation code change. The applicant's Army Military Human Resources Record (AMHRR), the issues, and documents submitted with the application were carefully reviewed.

b. The proceedings of the EPSBD revealed the applicant had a medical condition disqualifying for enlistment and existed before entry on active duty. A competent medical authority approved these findings, and the applicant agreed with the findings and proposed action for administrative separation from the Army. The applicant's DD Form 214 provides the applicant was discharged with a character of service of uncharacterized.

c. The applicant contends a medical discharge should have been given. Prior to joining the military, the applicant was in good physical and mental condition. The applicant provided a comprehensive 50-page collective of medical documentation detailing preservice, in service and post service evaluation and treatment. The third-party statements provided with the application reflect the applicants good character and disposition. It also shows a diagnosis of schizophrenia which existed prior to the applicant's 21st birthday. The AMHRR shows the applicant underwent a mental status evaluation (MSE) on 16 May 2018, indicating the applicant was mentally responsible and recognized right from wrong. The applicant was diagnosed with psychotic disorder NOS. Entrance Physical Standards Board (EPSBD) Proceedings, 16 May 2018, indicate the applicant was diagnosed with psychotic disorder NOS. The conditions existed before service, and if the applicant's mental health problem had been detected at the time of enlistment, it would have prevented military enlistment per Army Regulation 40-501, Chapter 2. The separation authority considered all the medical evidence in the AMHRR.

d. The applicant contends the Army should change the Separation Program Designator (SPD) code. The SPD codes are three-character alphabetic combinations identifying reasons for and types of separation from active duty. The primary purpose of SPD codes is to provide a statistical accounting of reasons for separation. They are intended exclusively for the internal use of DoD and the Military Services to assist in collecting and analyzing separation data. The Office of the Secretary of Defense controls SPD codes and implements them in Army policy AR 635-5-1 to track types of separations. The SPD code specified by Army Regulations for a discharge Chapter 5-11 is "JFW."

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: Psychotic Disorder, NOS. Additionally, the applicant asserts PTSD, MST, and OMH as related to her request. Per the applicant, while in an apparent psychotic state she felt someone on top of her and then everything went blank. It is unclear what occurred based on the applicant's statement.

(2) Did the condition exist or experience occur during military service? **Yes.** The Board's Medical Advisor found the applicant was diagnosed with Psychotic Disorder, NOS, while in service.

(3) Does the condition or experience actually excuse or mitigate the discharge? **No.**

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

b. Prior Decisions Cited: N/A

c. Response to Contention(s):

(1) The applicant contends being in good health prior to the Army. The applicant, while on active duty was heavily medicated which caused the current medical condition. The Board considered this contention non-persuasive during its deliberations.

(2) The applicant was heavily medicated and has limited recollection as to know if a sexual assault in the barracks occurred. The Board considered this contention during its deliberations however, it lacked sufficient evidence to substantiate relation to the inequity or impropriety of the characterization or disposition of discharge.

(3) The applicant has been out of work since 2018 due to anxiety, tiredness and restlessness. The applicant does not function in large crowds and only socialize with family and one friend. The Board considered this contention but does not grant relief solely to gain employment or enhance employment opportunities barring some other impropriety or inequity to outweigh the discharge characterization.

d. Board Deliberation: In a 3-0 vote, the Board determined the applicant's discharge was proper and equitable. The Board carefully considered the applicant's request, supporting documents, evidence in the records, a medical review, and published Department of Defense guidance for liberal consideration of discharge upgrade requests. In accordance with AR 635-200 and based on the applicant's official record, the applicant was separated while in an entry level status and an Uncharacterized discharge is the proper characterization of service. There was no identification of evidence that proved inequity or impropriety and there was no unusual circumstance that required the DCS, G-1 to provide an exception and authorize an Honorable characterization. Therefore, no change is warranted.

e. Rationale for Decision:

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

(2) The Board voted not to change the applicant's characterization of service because, despite applying liberal consideration of all the evidence before the Board, the applicant's BH diagnoses of Psychotic Disorder and NOS, the discharge was consistent with the procedural and substantive requirements of the regulation, was within the discretion of the separation authority, and the applicant was provided full administrative due process.

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(3) The Board voted not to change the applicant's reason for discharge or accompanying SPD code under the same pretexts, and 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 / Separation Order: No
- b. Change Characterization to: No Change
- c. Change Reason / SPD code to: No Change
- d. Change RE Code to: No Change
- e. Change Authority to: No Change

Authenticating Official:

2/20/2026

Legend:

AWOL – Absent Without Leave
AMHRR – Army Military Human
Resource Record
BCD – Bad Conduct Discharge
BH – Behavioral Health
CG – Company Grade Article 15
CID – Criminal Investigation
Division
ELS – Entry Level Status
FG – Field Grade Article 15
FTR – Failure to Report

GD – General Discharge
HS – High School
HD – Honorable Discharge
IADT – Initial Active-Duty
Training
MP – Military Police
MST – Military Sexual Trauma
N/A – Not applicable
NCO – Noncommissioned Officer
NIF – Not in File
NOS – Not Otherwise Specified

OAD – Ordered to Active Duty
OBH (I) – Other Behavioral
Health (Issues)
OMPF – Official Military
Personnel File
PTSD – Post-Traumatic Stress
Disorder
RE – Re-entry
SCM – Summary Court Martial
SPCM – Special Court Martial

SPD – Separation Program
Designator
TBI – Traumatic Brain Injury
UNC – Uncharacterized
Discharge
UOTHC – Under Other Than
Honorable Conditions
VA – Department of Veterans
Affairs