

1. Applicant's Name: [REDACTED]**a. Application Date:** 27 June 2021**b. Date Received:** 19 July 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 changes to the separation code, reentry code, and the narrative reason for separation.

b. Applicant Contention(s)/Issue(s): The applicant requests relief contending, in effect that testosterone and hormones affected the applicant's emotional state at the time of basic training while training to become an Officer.

c. Board Type and Decision: In a records review conducted on 27 January 2026, and by a 3-0 vote, the Board determined the narrative reason for the applicant's separation is inequitable based on the applicant's circumstances surrounding the discharge (OBHI diagnoses) and the change to regulatory guidance since discharge. Therefore, the Board directed the issue of a new DD Form 214 changing the separation authority to AR 635-200, paragraph 5-14, and the narrative reason for separation to Condition, Not a Disability, with a corresponding separation code to JFV. The board determined the Characterization and RE code were proper and equitable and voted not to change them. 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: Personality Disorder / AR 635-200, Paragraph 5-13 / JFX / RE-3 / Uncharacterized

b. Date of Discharge: 28 July 2009

c. Separation Facts:

(1) Date of Notification of Intent to Separate: 10 July 2009

(2) Basis for Separation: The applicant was informed of the following reasons: The applicant was diagnosed with a personality disorder with borderline and narcissistic traits.

(3) Recommended Characterization: Uncharacterized

(4) Legal Consultation Date: 17 July 2009

(5) Administrative Separation Board: NA

(6) Separation Decision Date / Characterization: 21 July 2009/ Uncharacterized

4. SERVICE DETAILS:

- a. **Date / Period of Enlistment Under Review:** 27 February 2009 / 8 years
- b. **Age at Enlistment / Education / GT Score:** 24 / Bachelor's Degree / 117
- c. **Highest Grade Achieved / MOS / Total Service:** E-4 / 09S, OCS trainee / 3 months, 1 day
- 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:**

(a) Report of Mental Status Evaluation (MSE), 18 June 2009, indicates the applicant was diagnosed with a condition of personality disorder with borderline and narcissistic traits. The applicant had a history of the condition prior to enlistment. The applicant was cleared for any administrative actions the command deemed appropriate. Separation of the applicant was in the best interest of both the Army and the Soldier.

(b) Report of Mental Status Evaluation (MSE), 18 June 2009, indicated the applicant denied any suicidal ideation or plan at the time.

(c) Four Developmental Counseling Forms, documented the applicant be transferred to another unit and separated from the service.

(d) Report of Medical Examination, 27 February 2009, the applicant was medically qualified for service.

(e) Medical Prescreen of Medical History Report, 23 February 2009, for block 2(a)72 the applicant initialed no for, "Taken medication, drugs, or any substance to improve attention, behavior, or physical performance".

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) Memorandum from Hayley A. Nichols, CNP, North Shore Physicians Group, 14 September 2020, indicated that the applicant at the time was found to be in good mental and physical health during the exam conducted on 27 August 2020. The provider stated that the applicant appeared to be mentally fit for military service.

(b) Memorandum from Isabel C. Murphy, Psy.D., Charles River Psychotherapy and Consultation, LLC, 20 August 2020, indicated that the applicant was previously diagnosed with

an Adjustment Reaction. The letter indicates that the provider never diagnosed the applicant with a personality disorder.

(c) Memorandum from Taylor Klein, M.S., Clinical Mental Health, Psy.D., undated, indicated that the applicant does not appear to have any cognitive deficits, does not meet the DSM-5 diagnostic criteria for Generalized Anxiety Disorder, nor meets the diagnosis of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. The provider stated that the applicant is low risk for developing major Depressive Disorder, Borderline Personality Disorder, paranoia, and schizophrenia.

(2) AMHRR Listed:

(a) Report of Mental Status Evaluation (MSE), 18 June 2009, indicates the applicant was diagnosed with a condition of personality disorder with borderline and narcissistic traits. The applicant had a history of the condition prior to enlistment. The applicant was cleared for any administrative actions the command deemed appropriate. The separation of the applicant was in the best interest of both the Army and the Soldier.

(b) Report of Mental Status Evaluation (MSE), 18 June 2009, indicated the applicant denied any suicidal ideation or plan at the time.

5. APPLICANT-PROVIDED EVIDENCE:

- DD Form 293 (Application for the Review of Discharge)
- ADRB letter to appeal to ARNG
- ARNG denial letter
- DD Form 214
- Separation Orders
- NG Form 22
- Separation packet
- Three mental health provider letters
- College transcripts
- Three third party statements
- Information paper on post cycle therapy

6. POST SERVICE ACCOMPLISHMENTS: The applicant completed a Master of Science degree in Kinesiology.

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 3-7a 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.

(b) 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.

(c) 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 5-13, in effect at the time, provided that a Soldier may be separated for a personality disorder, not amounting to disability, when the condition interfered with assignment to or performance of duty. The regulation requires that the condition is a deeply ingrained maladaptive pattern of behavior of long duration that interferes with the Soldier's ability to perform military duties. The regulation also directs that commanders will not take action prescribed in this Chapter in lieu of disciplinary action and requires that the disorder is so severe that the Soldier's ability to function in the military environment is significantly impaired. Army policy requires the award of a fully honorable discharge in such case.

(b) Paragraph 5-13h, stipulates a characterization of a Soldier separated per this paragraph will be characterized as honorable unless an entry-level separation is required under chapter 3, section II. Characterization of service under honorable conditions may be awarded to a Soldier who has been convicted of an offense by general court-martial or who has been convicted by more than one special court-martial in the current enlistment, period of obligated service, or any extension thereof.

(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. For ARNGUS and USAR Soldiers, entry-level status begins upon enlistment in the ARNG or USAR. For Soldiers ordered to IADT for one continuous period, it terminates 180 days after beginning training. For Soldiers ordered to IADT for the split or alternate training option, it terminates 90 days after beginning Phase II advanced individual training (AIT). (Soldiers completing Phase I BT or basic combat training remain in entry-level status until 90 days after beginning Phase II.)

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 identified the SPD code of "JFX" as the appropriate code to assign enlisted Soldiers who were discharged under the provisions of Army Regulation 635-200, Chapter 5-13, personality disorder.

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 changes to the separation code, reentry code, and narrative reason for separation. The applicant's Army Military Human Resources Record (AMHRR), the issues, and documents submitted with the application were carefully reviewed.

b. Evidence in the applicant's Army Military Human Resource Record (AMHRR) confirms the applicant was diagnosed by a competent medical authority with a personality disorder with borderline and narcissistic traits.

c. The applicant's Army Military Human Resources Record (AMHRR) contains evidence of the events leading to the discharge from the Army. The applicant's AMHRR includes a properly constituted DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty), which was authenticated by the applicant's electronic signature. The applicant's DD Form 214 indicates the applicant was discharged under the provisions of AR 635-200, Chapter 5, paragraph 5-13, by reason of Personality Disorder, with a characterization of service of Uncharacterized.

d. The applicant contends the Army should change the narrative reason for separation. The applicant was separated under Chapter 5, paragraph 5-13, AR 635-200 provisions with an Uncharacterized discharge. The narrative reason specified by Army Regulations for a discharge under this paragraph is "Personality Disorder," and the separation code is "LFX." Army Regulation 635-8 (Separation Processing and 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 entry of any other reason under this regulation.

e. 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 under Chapter 5, paragraphs 5-13, is "LFX."

f. The applicant requests a change to the reentry eligibility (RE) code or expresses a desire to rejoin the military. Soldiers processed for separation receive reentry codes based on their service records or discharge reasons. Army Regulation 601-210 assigns the applicant an RE code of "3," which is appropriate under the circumstances. No justification exists for changing the reason or the RE code. An RE Code of "3" requires a waiver before reenlistment. Recruiters can provide the best guidance on the Army's current needs and determine whether processing a waiver is appropriate.

g. The applicant contends being on supplements containing testosterone and trenbolone before starting training. The applicant stated that during training the hormones levels were affected where the applicant couldn't control themselves emotionally or understand what was going on.

h. The applicant contends attempting to reenlist several times but never trying to change the discharge.

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: Adjustment Disorder.

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

(3) Does the condition or experience actually excuse or mitigate the discharge? **No.** The Board's Medical Advisor applied liberal consideration and opined that a review of the available information reflects the applicant was not separated for misconduct, rather a Chapter 5-13 of AR 635-200 (Personality Disorder) during IET. Given the diagnosis and timing of the separation the applicant's characterization and narrative reason were proper and equitable. However, given ARBA's position of not affixing a BH condition to the DD Form 214, an administrative change to the narrative reason to reflect "condition not a disability (JFV)", appears supported.

(4) Does the condition or experience outweigh the discharge? **No.** Despite the Board's application of liberal consideration, the Board considered the opinion of the Board's Medical Advisor, a voting member, that the available evidence did not support a conclusion that relief beyond the administrative change is warranted for the aforementioned reason(s).

b. Prior Decisions Cited: N/A

c. Contention(s):

(1) The applicant contends changing the narrative reason for separation and corresponding SPD code:

The Board considered this contention and determined that an administrative change is warranted, based on a change in regulatory guidance to not have Personality Disorder listed on separation documents.

(2) The applicant contends changing the reentry code:

The Board considered this contention and voted to maintain the RE-code to a RE-3, which is a waivable code. An RE Code of "3" indicates the applicant requires a waiver before being allowed to reenlist. Recruiters can best advise a former service member as to the Army's needs at the time and are required to process waivers of reentry eligibility (RE) codes, if appropriate

(3) The applicant contends that the medical diagnosis did not exist prior to joining the military:

The Board considered this contention and the available evidence and determined that the Report of MSE, 18 June 2009, indicated the applicant was diagnosed with a condition of personality disorder with borderline and narcissistic traits. The applicant had a history of the condition prior to enlistment. The applicant was cleared for any administrative actions the command deemed appropriate. Separation of the applicant was in the best interest of both the Army and the Soldier.

(4) The applicant contends a hormonal imbalance and not knowing what was going on during training:

The Board considered this contention and determined that UNC is the proper characterization of service as the applicant's service was not long enough to be properly assessed. A general discharge (GD) under honorable conditions is not authorized under ELS conditions and an honorable discharge (HD) is rarely ever granted. An HD may be given only in cases which are clearly warranted by unusual circumstances involving outstanding personal conduct and/or performance of duty. The uncharacterized description of service accurately reflects the applicant's overall record of service. An uncharacterized discharge is neither positive nor negative and it is not meant to be a negative reflection of a Soldier's military service. It means the Soldier has not been in the Army long enough for a character of service to be rated as honorable or otherwise.

d. The Board determined the narrative reason for the applicant's separation is inequitable based on the applicant's circumstances surrounding the discharge (OBHI diagnoses) and the change to regulatory guidance since discharge. Therefore, the Board directed the issue of a new DD Form 214 changing the separation authority to AR 635-200, paragraph 5-14, and the narrative reason for separation to Condition, Not a Disability, with a corresponding separation code to JFV. The board determined the Characterization and RE code were proper and equitable and voted not to change them. However, the applicant may still apply to the Army Board for Correction of Military Records. The applicant is responsible for satisfying the burden of proof and providing documents or other evidence sufficient to support the applicant's contention(s) that the discharge was improper or inequitable.

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 there were no mitigating factors for the Board to consider. Since the applicant was discharged for having a history of personality disorder with borderline and narcissistic traits, discovered in BCT, **Uncharacterized** is proper and equitable. 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.

(3) The Board voted to change the reason for discharge to Condition, Not A Disability due to the change in regulatory guidance since the applicant's discharge removing the current narrative reason from separation documents, thus the reason for discharge is no longer appropriate. The SPD code associated with the new reason for discharge is JFV.

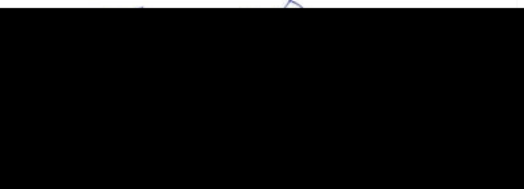
(4) The RE code will not change, as the current code is consistent with the procedural and substantive requirements of the regulation and the discharging condition is service-limiting.

10. BOARD ACTION DIRECTED:

- a. **Issue a New DD-214:** Yes
- b. **Change Characterization to:** No Change
- 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:

2/4/2026



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