

1. Applicant's Name: [REDACTED]**a. Application Date:** 13 April 2021**b. Date Received:** 6 July 2021**c. Representative:** None**2. REQUEST, ISSUES, BOARD TYPE, AND DECISION:****a. Applicant's Requests and Issues:**

(1) The current characterization of service for the period under review is General (Under Honorable Conditions). The applicant requests an upgrade to Honorable and a change of the narrative reason for separation.

(2) The applicant seeks relief contending they would like to change from a general to honorable due to medical conditions now recognized by the military. At the time of their discharge they were suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and using alcohol to self-medicate.

(3) While on deployment to Afghanistan, they were sent home on emergency leave due to their mother having a stroke. While home, they had a mental breakdown and attempted suicide, causing their family to call the authorities and having them hospitalized under the Baker Act for suicidal ideations. They were transported back to their unit in Alaska again placed in the hospital there because of suicidal ideations. After they were discharged from the hospital they were stripped of their rank and pay due to the Army claiming they were Absence Without Leave (AWOL). They attempted to reach out to their leadership for help with their mental health issues but were ignored, which influenced them to turn to self-medicating with alcohol and continued hospitalizations.

(4) After their discharge from the U.S. Army the Department of Veterans Affairs diagnosed them with Combat Related PTSD and awarded a 70-percent combined disability rating. They feel the Army and their leadership did not listen to them when they reached out to them for help, leading them to start self-medicating with alcohol, prompting their bad behavior and ending with their discharge.

b. Board Type and Decision: In a records review conducted on 15 August 2025, and by a 5-0 vote, voted to grant relief in the form of an upgrade of the characterization of service to Honorable, changed the narrative reason for separation to Secretarial Authority, with a corresponding separation code to JFF. The Board voted and determined the reentry eligibility (RE) code was proper and equitable due to the applicant's BH diagnoses.

3. DISCHARGE DETAILS:

a. Reason / Authority / Codes / Characterization: Misconduct, (Serious Offense) / Army Regulation 635-200, Paragraph 14-12C / JKQ / RE-3 / General (Under Honorable Conditions)

b. Date of Discharge: 21 March 2012

c. Separation Facts:

(1) **Date of Notification of Intent to Separate:** 16 February 2012

(2) Basis for Separation: The applicant was informed of the following reasons:

- committed a serious offense for which the specific circumstances of the offense warrant separation and a punitive discharge or would be authorized for the same or closely related offense under the Manual for Court-Martial
- disobeyed a lawful order from a superior commissioned officer not to consume alcohol until further notice on 23 November 2011
- absent themselves from their unit on 18 October 2011 and remained absent until apprehended on 9 November 2011

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

(4) Legal Consultation Date: 22 February 2012

(5) Administrative Separation Board: On 22 February 2012 the applicant waived consideration of their case by an administrative separation board.

(6) Separation Decision Date / Characterization: 6 March 2012 / General (Under Honorable Conditions)

4. SERVICE DETAILS:

a. Date / Period of Enlistment: NIF

b. Age at Enlistment / Education / GT Score: NIF / GED / 96

c. Highest Grade Achieved / MOS / Total Service: E-4 / 13B1O, Cannon Crewmember / 6 years, 3 months, 27 days (U.S. Army)

d. Prior Service / Characterizations: USNR, 7 months, 3 days / NIF

e. Overseas Service / Combat Service: SWA / Iraq (1 October 2006 – 1 January 2008 and 18 April 2009 – 24 September 2009), Afghanistan (12 August 2011 – 12 October 2011)

f. Awards and Decorations: ICM-3CS, ARCOM, NATOMDL, MUC, AGCM-2, NDSM, ACM-2CS, GCM-2CS, GWTSM, NCOPDR, ASR, OSR-3

g. Performance Ratings: NA

h. Disciplinary Action(s) / Evidentiary Record:

(1) A memorandum, Headquarters, 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, Stryker Brigade Combat Team, Forward Operating Base Masum Ghar, Afghanistan, subject: Letter of Release from Theater (Medical Permanent), dated 13 October 2011, reflects the applicant was released from theater due to behavioral health issues.

(2) Three DA Forms 4187 (Personal Action) dated 18 October 2011, 9 November 2011, and 16 November 2011, reflects that applicant's unit, Echo Battery, 2nd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery Regiment, Fort Wainwright, Alaska, changed their status from Present for Duty to AWOL effective 18 October 2011, from AWOL to Civilian Confinement on 9 November 2011, and from Civilian Confinement to Present for Duty effective 16 November 2011.

(3) A memorandum, 2nd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery Regiment,, subject: Congressional Response for – [Applicant's Spouse], dated 17 November 2021, reflects the report of investigation for the applicant's spouse's Congressional Inquiry. The applicant was authorized emergency leave to depart Afghanistan and to return to their ill mother in Florida from 26 September 2011 to 10 October 2011. The rear detachment received notification on 11 October 2011 from the psychiatrist at Patrick Air Force Base, FL, who said the applicant had self-referred themselves into the Patrick Mental Health Clinic on 11 October 2011. The applicant was discharged from the hospital on 14 October 2011; however, the applicant's unit requested they remain at the hospital until their escort arrived to pick the applicant up on 17 October 2011. After arriving at the medical facility in Florida on 17 October 2011, the escort coordinated with the medial providers on site and informed them that they were the unit escort who was appointed to escort the applicant back to Alaska. After the medical providers escorted the applicant to the lobby of the hospital, the applicant refused to return to Alaska with the escort and instead waited in the lobby. [Note: only page 1 of this document is in evidence for review.]

(4) Three DA Forms 4856 (Developmental Counseling Forms) dated 23 November 2011 through 12 December 2011, reflects the applicant was informed that they are being placed on restriction and continued to remain on restriction and safety control measures are in place for their safety. The applicant agreed with the information, provided no remarks, and signed the forms. In Part IV (Assessment of the Plan of Action) dated 9 December 2011 reflects the plan of action was not successful. The applicant consumed alcohol on 2 December 2011 and did not call any of the discussed numbers provided to them on their contact card.

(5) A DA Form 2627 (Record of Proceedings under Article 15, Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ)), dated 25 January 2012, reflects the applicant received nonjudicial punishment for; in that they did, on or about 18 October 2011, without authority, absent themselves from their unit and did remain so absent until they were apprehended on or about 9 November 2011, in violation of Article 86 (AWOL), UCMJ; and, in that, having received a lawful command from their superior commissioned officer, to not consume alcohol, did, at or near Fort Wainwright, AK, on or about 2 December 2011, willfully disobey the same, in violation of Article 90 (Willfully Disobeying Lawful Order of Superior Commissioned Officer), UCMJ. Their punishment consisted of a reduction in rank/grade from private first class/E-3 to private/E-1, forfeiture of \$745.00 pay for two months, extra duty and restriction for 45 days, and an oral reprimand. The applicant elected not to appeal.

(6) A DD Form 2808 (Report of Medical Evaluation) dated 26 January 2012 reflects the examining physician marked "Normal" for all items examined, the applicant is qualified for service with no physical profile; and lists high cholesterol and smoker for item 77 (Summary of Defects and Diagnoses).

(7) A DA Form 3822 (Report of Mental Status Evaluation) dated 26 January 2012 reflects the reason for the evaluation is for clearance for Administrative Separation under Army Regulation 635-200, paragraph 14-12. From a behavioral health standpoint the applicant is deemed unfit for duty due to a personality disorder or other mental condition that does not amount to a medical disability. The applicant understand and participate in administrative proceedings, can appreciate the difference between right and wrong, meets medical requirements (i.e., does not qualify for a Medical Evaluation Board), and should continue scheduled follow up at Community Mental Health. Section V (Diagnoses) reflects the applicant's Axis I (Psychiatric Conditions) as Adjustment Disorder with anxiety and depressed mood.

(a) Section VIII (Additional Comments) reflects the behavioral health provider marked a Temporary Profile with "S (Psychiatric)" rating of "3 [signifies that the individual has one or more medical conditions or physical defects that may require significant limitations]" is

activated to expire in 90 days. The applicant screened positive for PTSD and negative for TBI. The applicant meets psychiatric criteria for expeditious administrative separation. It is their professional opinion the applicant will not respond to command efforts at rehabilitation (such as transfer, disciplinary action or reclassification), or to any behavioral health treatment methods currently available in the military. The applicant should continue follow up in Army Substance Abuse Program. Recommend legal order to abstain from alcohol.

(b) The behavioral health provider remarked the applicant should not have access to weapons or ordinance. Recommend securing of all off post weapons. Medications will be prescribed as appropriate in small supplies. Applicant should follow up as scheduled and adhere to duty restrictions.

(8) A memorandum, Echo Battery, 2nd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery Regiment, subject: Separation under Army Regulation 635-200, Paragraph 14-12c, Commission of a Serious Offense, [Applicant], dated 16 February 2012, the applicant's company commander notified the applicant of their intent to separate them under the provisions of Army Regulation 635-200, paragraph 14-12c, Commission of a Serious Offense with a recommended characterization of service of General (Under Honorable Conditions) for misconduct as described above in paragraph 3c(2). On the same day, the applicant acknowledged the basis for the separation and of the rights available to them.

(9) In the applicant's memorandum, subject: Election of Rights under Army Regulation 635-200 Paragraph 14-12c, Commission of a Serious Offense, [Applicant], dated 22 February 2012, they acknowledged they have been advised by their consulting counsel of the basis for the contemplated action to separate them and its effects; of the rights available to them; and of the effect of any taken by them in waiving their rights. The applicant waived consideration of their case by an administrative separation board, elected not to submit statements on their behalf, and requested consulting counsel. They understood they may expect to encounter substantial prejudice in civilian life if a General (Under Honorable Conditions) discharge is issued to them. They further understand that as the result of issuance of a discharge Under Other Than Honorable Conditions they may be ineligible for many or all benefits as a veteran under both Federal and State laws.

(10) A memorandum, Echo Battery, 2nd Battalion, 8th Field Artillery Regiment, subject: Commander's Report – Proposed Separation under Army Regulation 635-200, Paragraph 14-12c, Commission of a Serious Offense, [Applicant], dated 22 February 2012, reflects the applicant's company commander submitted a request to separate them prior to their expiration term of service. The commander does not consider it feasible or appropriate to accomplish other disposition as the misconduct by the applicant shows a complete lack of dedication to the Army's mission and values. Further rehabilitation attempts would not produce a quality Soldier.

(11) A memorandum, Headquarters, 1st Battalion, 25th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, Rear Detachment, subject: Separation under Army Regulation 635-200, Paragraph 14-12c, Commission of a Serious Offense, [Applicant], dated 27 February 2012, reflects the commander reviewed the separation packet of the applicant and also considered the unconditional waiver submitted by the applicant. The commander recommended the applicant be separated from the U.S. Army prior to the expiration of their current term of service and their service be characterized as General (Under Honorable Conditions).

(12) A memorandum, Arctic Support Command (Provisional), subject: Separation under Army Regulation 635-200, Paragraph 14-12c, Commission of a Serious Offense, [Applicant], dated 6 March 2012, reflects the separation authority reviewed the separation packet of the applicant and also considered the unconditional waiver submitted by the applicant. The

commander recommended the applicant be separated from the U.S. Army prior to the expiration of their current term of service and their service be characterized as General (Under Honorable Conditions).

(13) On 21 March 2012, the applicant was discharged from the Regular Army. Their DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) reflects the applicant completed 11 years, 7 months, and 15 days of net active service this period. They completed their first full term of service. The DD Form 214 shows in:

- item 24 (Character of Service) – General (Under Honorable Conditions)
- item 26 (Separation Code) – JKQ
- item 27 (Reentry Code) - 3
- item 28 (Narrative Reason for Separation) – Misconduct, (Serious Offense)
- item 29 (Dates of Time Lost During This Period) – 20111018 - 20111115

i. **Lost Time / Mode of Return:** 29 Days, 18 October 2011 – 15 November 2011 / Apprehended by Civilian Authorities

j. **Behavioral Health Condition(s):** None

- **Applicant provided:** On 5 January 2022 the Army Review Boards Agency requested the applicant provide their medical documents to support their mental health issues (PTSD and TBI). The applicant submitted a DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Records under the Provisions of Title 10, U.S. Code, Section 1552) dated 24 October 2022 with no medical documents. The applicant then submitted a DD Form 293 (Application for the Review of Discharge from the Armed Forces of the United States) dated 1 April 2024 and attached a VA screenshot of their disability ratings; however, no behavioral health conditions are shown.

(1) **AMHRR Listed:** DA Form 3822 (Report of Mental Status Evaluation) as described in previous paragraph 4h(7).

5. APPLICANT-PROVIDED EVIDENCE:

- two DD Form 293
- DD Form 149
- DD Form 214
- VA screenshot of disability rating

6. **POST SERVICE ACCOMPLISHMENTS:** none submitted with application.

7. STATUTORY, REGULATORY AND POLICY REFERENCE(S):

a. Title 10, U.S. Code, Section 1553, (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, Title 10 U.S. Code, Section 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. Multiple Department of Defense (DoD) Policy Guidance Memoranda published between 2014 and 2018. The documents are commonly referred to by the signatory authorities' last names (2014 Secretary of Defense Guidance [Hagel memo], 2016 Acting Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness [Carson memo], 2017 Official Performing the Duties of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness [Kurta memo], and 2018 Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness [Wilkie memo].

(1) Individually and collectively, these documents provide further clarification to the Military Discharge Review Boards and Boards for Correction of Military/Naval Records when considering requests by Veterans for modification of their discharge due to mental health conditions, including PTSD; TBI; sexual assault; or sexual harassment. Liberal consideration will be given to Veterans petitioning for discharge relief when the application for relief is based in whole or in part on matters relating to mental health conditions, including PTSD; TBI; sexual assault; or sexual harassment. Special consideration will be given to Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) determinations that document a mental health condition, including PTSD; TBI; or sexual assault/harassment potentially contributed to the circumstances resulting in a less than honorable discharge characterization. Special consideration will also be given in cases where a civilian provider confers diagnoses of a mental health condition, including PTSD; TBI; or sexual assault/harassment if the case records contain narratives supporting symptomatology at the time of service or when any other evidence which may reasonably indicate that a mental health condition, including PTSD; TBI; or sexual assault/harassment existed at the time of discharge might have mitigated the misconduct that caused a discharge of lesser characterization.

(2) Conditions documented in the service record that can reasonably be determined to have existed at the time of discharge will be considered to have existed at the time of discharge. In cases in which a mental health condition, including PTSD; TBI; or sexual assault/harassment may be reasonably determined to have existed at the time of discharge, those conditions will be considered potential mitigating factors in the misconduct that caused the characterization of service in question. All Boards will exercise caution in weighing evidence of mitigation in cases in which serious misconduct precipitated a discharge with a less than Honorable characterization of service. Potentially mitigating evidence of the existence of undiagnosed combat related PTSD, PTSD-related conditions due to TBI or sexual assault/harassment as causative factors in the misconduct resulting in discharge will be carefully weighed against the severity of the misconduct. PTSD is not a likely cause of premeditated misconduct. Caution shall be exercised in weighing evidence of mitigation in all cases of misconduct by carefully considering the likely causal relationship of symptoms to the misconduct.

c. 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; Title 10 U.S. Code; Section 1553 and DoD Directive 1332.41 and DoD Instruction 1332.28.

d. Army Regulation 635-200 (Active Duty Enlisted Administrative Separations), dated 6 September 2011, set policies, standards, and procedures to ensure the readiness and competency of the force while providing for the orderly administrative separation of Soldiers for

a variety of reasons. Readiness is promoted by maintaining high standards of conduct and performance.

(1) An Honorable discharge is a separation with honor and is appropriate when the quality of the Soldier's service generally has met the standards of acceptable conduct and performance of duty for Army personnel or is otherwise so meritorious that any other characterization would be clearly inappropriate.

(2) A General discharge is a separation from the Army under honorable conditions and is issued to a Soldier whose military record is satisfactory but not sufficiently meritorious to warrant an honorable discharge.

(3) A Under Other Than Honorable Conditions Discharge is an administrative separation from the Service under conditions other than honorable. It may be issued for misconduct, fraudulent entry, security reasons, or in lieu of trial by court-martial.

(4) Chapter 14 (Separation for Misconduct) established policy and prescribed procedures for separating members for misconduct. 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. Paragraph 14-12c (Commission of a Service Offense), stated a Soldier is subject to action per this section for commission of a serious military or civilian offense, if the specific circumstances of the offense warrant separation and a punitive discharge is, or would be, authorized for the same or a closely related offense under the Manual for Courts-Martial.

(5) Chapter 15 (Secretarial Plenary Authority), currently in effect, 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.

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

f. Army Regulation 601-210 (Regular Army and Reserve Components Enlistment Program) governs eligibility criteria, policies, and procedures for enlistment and processing of persons into the Regular Army, the U.S. Army Reserve, and Army National Guard for enlistment per DoD Instruction 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:

(1) 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.

(2) 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.

(3) 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. Manual for Courts-Martial, United States (2012 Edition) stated, military law consists of the statutes governing the military establishment and regulations issued thereunder, the constitutional powers of the President and regulations issued thereunder, and the inherent authority of military commanders. Military law includes jurisdiction exercised by courts-martial and the jurisdiction exercised by commanders with respect to nonjudicial punishment. The purpose of military law is to promote justice, to assist in maintaining good order and discipline in the Armed Forces. Appendix 12 (Maximum Punishment Chart) Manual for Courts-Martial shows the maximum punishments include punitive discharge for violating Article 86 (AWOL) and Article 90 (Willfully Disobeying Lawful Order of Superior Commissioned Officer).

h. Title 38, U.S. Code, Sections 1110 and 1131, permits the VA to award compensation for a medical condition which was incurred in or aggravated by active military service. The VA, however, is not required by law to determine medical unfitness for further military service. The VA, in accordance with its own policies and regulations, awards compensation solely on the basis that a medical condition exists and that said medical condition reduces or impairs the social or industrial adaptability of the individual concerned. Consequently, due to the two concepts involved, an individual's medical condition, although not considered medically unfitting for military service at the time of processing for separation, discharge, or retirement, may be sufficient to qualify the individual for VA benefits based on an evaluation by the agency.

8. SUMMARY OF FACT(S):

a. The Army Discharge Review Board considers applications for upgrade as instructed by DoD Instruction 1332.28.

b. The available evidence reflects the applicant received nonjudicial punishment under the provisions of Article 15, UCMJ for violations of Article 86 (AWOL) and Article 90 (Willfully Disobeying Lawful Order of Superior Commissioned Officer), received notification of the intent to discharge them from the U.S. Army in which they waived consideration of their case by an Administrative Separation Board and was involuntarily discharged from the U.S. Army. The DD Form 214 provides the applicant was discharged with a character of service of General (Under Honorable Conditions) for misconduct, (serious offense). They completed 6 years, 3 months, and 27 days of net active service this period and completed their first full term of service; however, their reenlistment documents are not in evidence for review to determine their reenlistment service obligation.

c. Chapter 14 establishes policy and prescribes procedures for separation members for misconduct. Specific categories include minor disciplinary infractions, a pattern of misconduct, commission of a serious offense and convictions by civil authorities. Action will be taken to separate a member for misconduct when it is clearly established that rehabilitation is impracticable or is 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.

d. The applicant's AMHRR does not reflect documentation of a diagnosis of PTSD, nor did the applicant provide evidence of a diagnosis of PTSD, during their military service. However, their DA Form 3822 at the time of their discharge reflects a diagnosis of Adjustment Disorder with anxiety and depressed mood and screened positive for PTSD. The behavioral health provider states they meet medical retention requirements and do not qualify for a Medical Evaluation Board.

e. Published DoD guidance indicates that the guidance is not intended to interfere or impede on the Board's statutory independence. The Board will determine the relative weight of the action that led to the discharge and whether it supports relief or not. In reaching its determination, the Board shall consider the applicant's petition, available records and/or submitted documents in support of the petition.

9. BOARD DISCUSSION AND DETERMINATION:

a. As directed by the 2017 memo signed by A.M. Kurta, the board considered the following factors:

(1) Did the applicant have a condition or experience that may excuse or mitigate the discharge? **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: PTSD with subsumed Adjustment Disorder, MDD, and Alcohol Dependence.

(2) Did the condition exist, or experience occur during military service? **Yes.** PTSD with subsumed Adjustment Disorder and Alcohol Dependence.

(3) Does the condition or experience actually excuse or mitigate the discharge? **Yes.** The Board's Medical Advisor applied liberal consideration and opined that given the combat trauma and PTSD diagnosis occurred prior to the misconduct, nexus between trauma and avoidance and substance use, and improper clearance for deployment and discharge, the basis is mitigated

(4) Does the condition or experience outweigh the discharge? **Yes.** Based on liberally considering all the evidence before the Board, the ADRB applied liberal consideration and opined the combat trauma and PTSD mitigated the discharge.

b. Prior Decisions Cited: None

c. Response to Contention(s):

(1) The applicant contends they would like to change from a general to honorable due to medical conditions now recognized by the military. At the time of their discharge, they were suffering from PTSD and using alcohol to self-medicate. While on deployment to Afghanistan, they were sent home on emergency leave due to their mother having a stroke. While home, they had a mental breakdown and attempted suicide, causing their family to call the authorities and having them hospitalized under the Baker Act for suicidal ideation. The applicant attempted to reach out to their leadership for help with their mental health issues but were ignored, which influenced them to turn to self-medicating with alcohol. After their discharge from the U.S. Army the VA diagnosed them with Combat Related PTSD and awarded a 70-percent combined disability rating.

The Board liberally considered this contention and determined that it was valid due to the

applicant's Post Traumatic Stress Disorder outweighing the applicant's AWOL and disobeying an order basis for separation. Therefore, a discharge upgrade is warranted.

d. The Board determined an upgrade is warranted based on the applicant's PTSD, with subsumed Adjustment Disorder and Alcohol Dependence, which outweigh the applicant's offenses of disobeying a lawful order from a superior commissioned officer not to consume alcohol and AWOL. The Board believed the discharge was improper because the applicant's Primary Care Manager changed the applicant's medical diagnosis so the applicant could deploy. The applicant should not have deployed due to their PTSD and MDD. Additionally, the Board's Medical Advisor opined the applicant should have been medically discharged. Therefore, the Board voted to grant relief in the form of an upgrade of the characterization of service to Honorable, changed the narrative reason for separation to Secretarial Authority, with a corresponding separation code to JFF. The Board voted and determined the reentry eligibility (RE) code was proper and equitable due to the applicant's BH diagnoses.

e. Rationale for Decision:

(1) The Board voted to change the applicant's characterization of service to Honorable because the applicant's Post Traumatic Stress Disorder outweighed the applicant's misconduct of disobeying an order and AWOL. Thus, the prior characterization is no longer appropriate.

(2) The Board voted to change the reason for discharge to Secretarial Authority under the same rationale, thus the reason for discharge is no longer appropriate. The SPD code associated with the new reason for discharge is JFF.

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

ARMY DISCHARGE REVIEW BOARD CASE REPORT AND DIRECTIVE

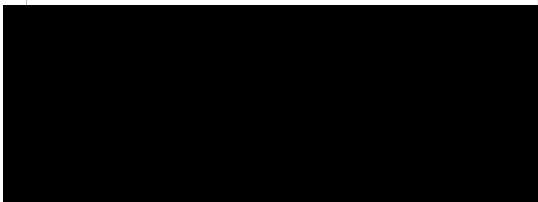
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10. BOARD ACTION DIRECTED:

- f. Issue a New DD-214 / Separation Order: Yes**
- g. Change Characterization to: Honorable**
- h. Change Reason / SPD code to: Secretarial Authority / JFF**
- i. Change RE Code to: No Change**
- j. Change Authority to: AR 635-200, Chapter 15**

Authenticating Official:

8/23/2025



Legend:

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

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

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

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