

1. Applicant's Name: [REDACTED]**a. Application Date:** 31 August 2021**b. Date Received:** 31 August 2021**c. Counsel:** 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, in effect, requests reconsideration of their request for an upgrade to honorable, previously denied in Army Discharge Review Board Docket Number AR20110025234, dated 18 May 2012.

(2) The applicant seeks relief contending they were discharged based on one isolated event in 59 months of service with no prior disciplinary problems. Their misconduct (Absence Without Leave (AWOL)) was driven by their Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). They completed recruiter training and realized they were not assigned anywhere so they took the time to try and locate an apartment at their next duty station, prepared for their permanent change of station, and to take care of their spouse who had a terminal illness (cystic fibrosis). Their relationship with their spouse became strained while they were at recruiter school and caused them to have massive anxiety. They were charged with being AWOL for 28 days. They understand their mistake made them look bad, but they never would have behaved that way before their deployment and there were on medication at that time. They were too young and too mentally ill to mount a proper defense. They feel as though they were railroaded and no consideration was being made for their mental health issues or the enormous amount of stress they were under.

(3) They believe they were treated unfairly and targeted after their misconduct. Up until their deployment and being assigned to a new unit they were a superstar. They were exemplary in physical training, marksmanship and military knowledge. They had always been known for their excellence, courage, honor, and disciplined. They don't believe they should have been discharged for what they did, their service as a whole should deserve an honorable discharge.

(4) After their discharge, they continued to suffer from mental illness. Their spouse divorced them and they lost their car and their apartment. They were homeless and really struggled for a few years until they went to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). They are now rated by the VA for PTSD at 100-percent.

b. Board Type and Decision: In a records review conducted on 30 July 2025, and by a 5 - 0 vote, the Board determined the discharge was inequitable and voted to grant relief in the form of an upgrade of the characterization of service to Honorable, changed the separation authority to AR 635-200, Chapter 14-12a, and the narrative reason for separation to JKN. The Board determined the RE code was proper and equitable and voted not to change it.

3. DISCHARGE DETAILS:

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

b. Date of Discharge: 4 October 2007

c. Separation Facts:

(1) **Date of Notification of Intent to Separate:** 4 September 2007

(2) **Basis for Separation:** between 23 May 2007 and 21 June 2007, without authority, absent from their unit.

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

(4) **Legal Consultation Date:** 17 September 2007

(5) **Administrative Separation Board:** NA

(6) **Separation Decision Date / Characterization:** 22 September 2007 / General (Under Honorable Conditions)

4. SERVICE DETAILS:

a. Date / Period of Oath of Extension of Enlistment: The applicant extended the most recent enlistment by a period of 3 months on 27 October 2006, giving the applicant a new Expiration Term of Service (ETS) of: 12 May 2010.

b. Age at Enlistment / Education / GT Score: 22 / HS Diploma / 126

c. Highest Grade Achieved / MOS / Total Service: E-5 / 19DO, Cavalry Scout / 4 years, 9 months, 24 days

d. Prior Service / Characterizations: NA

e. Overseas Service / Combat Service: SWA / Iraq (14 October 2004 – 14 October 2005)

f. Awards and Decorations: ARCOM, AAM, AGCM, NDSM, GWTEM, GWTSM, ASR, OSR

g. Performance Ratings: April 2006 – September 2006 / Fully Capable

h. Disciplinary Action(s) / Evidentiary Record:

(1) Two DA Forms 4187 (Personnel Action) dated 23 May 2007 and 21 June 2007 reflects the applicant's unit changed their duty status from Present for Duty to AWOL, effective 23 May 2007 and from AWOL to Present for Duty, effective 21 June 2007.

(2) A DA Form 4856 (Developmental Counseling Form) dated 21 June 2007 reflects in –

(a) Purpose of Counseling, to determine why the applicant was not at the appointed place of duty. They completed the Army Recruiting Course on 18 May 2007. Reported to Physical Fitness Training on 21 May 2007 and 22 May 2007 and was AWOL from 23 May 2007 through 21 June 2007.

(b) Key Points of Discussion, the applicant stated they reported to Physical Fitness Training on 21 May 2007 and 22 May 2007 following their completion of the Recruiting Course. They then spent the rest of those two days going to Walter Hall to clear but could not clear

without orders. They spoke to the S1 (Personnel Section) about getting orders on 22 May 2007. The S1 said they would let them know when they would have their orders. The applicant stated following that conversation, they did not report to the unit again until they were contacted by the S1 on 21 June 2007. The applicant did not get authorization from the Commander to be absent from 23 May 2007 through 21 June 2007. The applicant stated they were trying to sort out personal matters and did not think they had a place to report to. They are scheduled to report to the Olympia, WA Recruiting Station on 25 June 2007 and has not cleared the unit. The applicant stated they do not have clearing papers yet.

(c) Session Closing, the applicant agreed with the information, provided no remarks, and signed the counseling form.

(3) A DA Form 2627 (Record of Proceedings under Article 15, Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ)) dated 19 July 2007 reflects the applicant received nonjudicial punishment, in that they, did at or near Fort Lewis, WA, on or about 23 May 2007, without authority, absent themselves from their unit, and did remain so absent until on or about 21 June 2007, in violation of Article 86 (AWOL), UCMJ. Their punishment consisted of a reduction in rank/grade from sergeant/E-5 to specialist/E-4, forfeiture of \$989.00 pay for two months and extra duty and restriction for 45 days. The applicant elected to appeal. On 24 July 2007, the Judge Advocate opined that the applicant's appeal should be denied, the applicant agreed to accept the Field Grade Article 15 in exchange for not sending this to a Summary Court-Marital. On 20 August 2007, the applicant's brigade commander denied the applicant's appeal.

(4) A Medical Command Form 699-R (Mental Status Evaluation) dated 25 July 2007 reflects the applicant has the mental capacity to understand and participate in the proceedings, was mentally responsible and meets retention requirements. The Clinical Psychologist states the applicant is cleared for any administrative action deemed appropriate by command.

(5) A letter, University of Washington School of Medicine dated 10 August 2007 reflects the applicant's spouse's diagnoses of cystic fibrosis, end-stage cystic fibrosis-related bronchiectasis, pancreatic insufficiency, malnutrition, extremely poor exertional tolerance. Their spouse's prognosis is very poor with the estimated length of disability – until death (likely less than one year), unless lung transplantation.

(6) A memorandum, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 8th Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, subject: Separation under Army Regulation 635-200, Chapter 14, dated 4 September 2007, reflects the applicant's company commander notified them of their intent to separate them under the provisions of Army Regulation 635-200, paragraph 14-12c, for Commission of a Serious Offense as described above in paragraph 3c(2). The company commander recommended the applicant's characterization of service as General (Under Honorable Conditions). On the same date, the applicant acknowledged receipt of the proposed action initiated against them.

(7) A memorandum, Trial Defense Services, Region West, subject: (Applicant) Chapter 14, dated 5 September 2007, the applicant's defense counsel states, the applicant's packet is missing paperwork that was submitted for consideration in their Article 15 hearing. Additionally, there is no mention of the applicant's application for separation under Army Regulation 635-200, Chapter 6 (Separation Because of Dependency or Hardship). The applicant's spouse is terminally ill. It is highly likely the convening authority will be interested in reading the matters the applicant submitted at their Article 15 hear and such matters are relevant as to what chapter the applicant should be separated under.

(8) In the applicant's memorandum, subject: Memorandum Requesting Discharge under Army Regulation 635-200, Chapter 6, dated 6 September 2007, reflects the applicant's request for hardship and dependency discharge. The applicant attests to their spouse's condition, of how the condition has worsened, and how it has affected their own mental well-being.

(9) A memorandum, Trial Defense Services, Region West, subject: (Applicant) Chapter 14, dated 5 September 2007, the applicant's defense counsel states, they understand the applicant is not necessarily entitled to receive a chapter 6 discharge. However, there are extremely compelling conditions in their life that warrant consideration of their request. The chain of command will be committing a great disservice to the applicant if they do not consider their chapter 6 discharge request and the conditions surrounding their request. The chain of command should consider what the applicant has done for their country. They deployed to Iraq and served honorably while in Iraq. There is no evidence to suggest that their service has been anything but honorable. Their characterization of service should not be based solely on their Article 15, which was for alleged misconduct that covered a one month period in their four year career as a Soldier in the U.S. Army

(10) On 17 September 2007, the applicant completed their election of rights signing they have been advised by their consulting counsel of the basis for the contemplated action to separate them for Commission of a Serious Offense and its effects; of the rights available to them, and of the effect of any action taken by them in waiving their rights. They understand they may expect to encounter substantial prejudice in civilian life if a General (Under Honorable Conditions) discharge is issued to them. They requested consulting counsel and elected not to submit statements on their behalf.

(11) A memorandum, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 8th Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, subject: Separation under Army Regulation 635-200, Chapter 14, dated 17 September 2007, the applicant's company commander submitted a request to separate them prior to their expiration term of service.

(12) A memorandum, Headquarter, 5th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, subject: Separation under Army Regulation 635-200, Chapter 14, dated 22 September 2007, the separation authority approved the recommendation for the separation of the applicant under the provision of Army Regulation 635-200, chapter 14, paragraph 14-12c, for Commission of Serious Offense. They directed the applicant's service will be characterized as General (Under Honorable Conditions) and waived rehabilitative requirements.

(13) A DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) reflects the applicant was discharged on 4 October 2007, with 4 years, 9 months, and 24 days of net active service this period. The DD Form 214 shows in:

- item 18 (Remarks) – MEMBER HAS COMPLETED FIRST FULL TERM OF SERVICE
- 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) – 20070523 - 20070621

(14) A DD Form 293 (Application for the Review of Discharge from the Armed Forces of the United States) dated 14 December 2010 reflects the applicant request for an upgrade of their characterization of service to Honorable. The applicant states the unit commander charged

them with being AWOL for 26 days. They were chaptered under paragraph 14-12c, commission of a serious offense; however, to be discharged for being AWOL, a has to have been AWOL for greater than 60 days. They should not have been chaptered under paragraph 14-12c. They have not received a single Article 15 in their career until they met their battalion commander. They served in Operation Iraq Freedom III honorably. The battalion commander's problem with them was a personal vendetta.

(15) On 18 May 2012, the Army Discharge Review Board denied the applicant's request for an upgrade to honorable. The Board found no mitigating factors that would merit an upgrade of the applicant's discharge. The Board determined –

- the applicant's discharge was appropriate because the quality of their service was not consistent with the Army's standards for acceptable personal conduct and performance of duty by military personnel
- by the misconduct, the applicant diminished the quality of their service below that meriting a fully honorable discharge
- the applicant provided no independent corroborating evidence demonstrating that either the command's action was erroneous or that their service mitigated the misconduct or poor duty performance
- there was no evidence found of arbitrary or capricious actions by the command
- all requirements of law and regulation were met and the rights of the applicant were fully protected throughout the separation process
- the reason for discharge and the characterization of service were both proper and equitable

i. **Lost Time / Mode of Return:** 28 days (AWOL – 23 May 2007 – 21 June 2007) / NIF

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

5. APPLICANT-PROVIDED EVIDENCE:

- DD Form 293 (Application for the Review of Discharge from the Armed Forces of the United States), two statements
- excerpts of their Army Military Human Resources Record
- VA Summary of Benefit Letter, dated 31 August 2021, reflecting a combined service-connected evaluation of 100-percent, considered to be totally and permanently disabled due solely to their service connected disabilities

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 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 July 2005, 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 6 (Separation Because of Dependency or Hardship) stated Soldiers on active duty may be discharged or released because of genuine dependency or hardship. Dependency exists when death or disability of a member of a Soldier's (or spouse's) immediate family causes that member to rely upon the Soldier for principal care or support. Hardship exists when in circumstances not involving death or disability of a member of the Soldier's (or spouse's) immediate family, separation from the Service will materially affect the care or support of the family by alleviating undue and genuine hardship.

(5) 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. An absentee returned to military control from a status of AWOL or desertion may be separated for commission of serious offense.

(6) 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 Department of Defense Instructions 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 waiverable. Eligibility: Ineligible unless a waiver is granted.

(3) RE-4 Applies to: Person separated from last period of service with a nonwaiverable disqualification. This includes anyone with a DA imposed bar to reenlistment in effect at time of separation or separated for any reason (except length of service retirement) with 18 or more years active Federal service. Eligibility: Ineligible for enlistment.

g. Manual for Courts-Martial, United States (2005 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), more than three, not more than 30 days – Discharge – None; and for more than 30 days – Discharge – Dishonorable Discharge, Bad Conduct Discharge.

8. SUMMARY OF FACT(S):

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

b. The available evidence reflects the applicant received nonjudicial punishment under the provision of Article 15, UCMJ for a period of AWOL from 23 May 2007 to 21 June 2007 and was involuntary discharge 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 4 years, 9 months, and 24 days of net active service this period and completed their first term of service, however, they did not complete their oath of extension of their reenlistment contractual obligation of 4 years and 3 months.

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; to include abuse of illegal drugs; 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; during their military service; nor did the applicant provide such evidence.

e. Published Department of Defense 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/experiences: Dysthymic Disorder, Anxiety DO, Depressive DO, PTSD. [Note-diagnoses of Adjustment DO with mixed anxiety and depressed mood and Dysthymic DO are subsumed under diagnosis of Depressive DO. Diagnosis of Adjustment DO with anxiety is subsumed under diagnosis of Anxiety DO NOS. ADHD is a pre-existing condition which does not fall under purview of liberal consideration.]

(2) Did the condition exist, or experience occur during military service? **Yes.** The Board's Medical Advisor found that diagnoses of Anxiety DO, Depressive DO were made on active duty. VA service connection for PTSD (100%SC) establishes nexus with active service.

(3) Does the condition or experience actually excuse or mitigate the discharge? **Yes.** The Board's Medical Advisor applied liberal consideration and opined that the applicant has several mitigating BH conditions, Anxiety DO, Depressive DO and PTSD. As there is an association between Anxiety DO, Depressive DO and PTSD and avoidant behavior, there is a nexus between his diagnoses of Anxiety DO/Depressive DO/PTSD and his offense of being AWOL.

(4) Does the condition or experience outweigh the discharge? **Yes.** Based on liberally considering all the evidence before the Board, the ADRB determined that the condition or experience outweighed the basis of separation.

b. Prior Decisions Cited: None

c. Response to Contention(s):

(1) The applicant contends they were discharged based on one isolated event in 59 months of service with no prior disciplinary problems. Their misconduct (AWOL) was driven by their PTSD.

The Board considered this contention during proceedings and voted to grant relief based on the applicant's PTSD fully outweighing the applicant's AWOL basis for separation.

(2) The applicant contends they never would have behaved that way before their deployment and there were on medication at that time.

The Board considered this contention granted relief based on the applicant's PTSD fully outweighing the applicant's AWOL basis for separation.

(3) The applicant contends they were too young and too mentally ill to mount a proper defense. They feel as though they were railroaded and no consideration was being made for their mental health issues or the enormous amount of stress they were under. The Board considered this contention during proceedings.

(4) The applicant contends they believe they were treated unfairly and targeted after their misconduct. Up until their deployment and being assigned to a new unit they were a superstar. They were exemplary in physical training, marksmanship and military knowledge. They had always been known for their excellence, courage, honor, and disciplined. They don't believe they should have been discharged for what they did, their service as a whole should deserve an honorable discharge. The Board considered this contention during proceedings.

(5) The applicant contends after their discharge, they continued to suffer from mental illness. Their spouse divorced them and they lost their car and their apartment. They were homeless and really struggled for a few years until they went to the VA. They are now rated by the VA for PTSD at 100-percent. The Board acknowledged this contention during proceedings.

d. The Board determined the discharge was inequitable and voted to grant relief in the form of an upgrade of the characterization of service to Honorable, changed the separation authority to AR 635-200, the narrative reason for separation to JKN. The Board determined the RE code was proper and equitable and voted not to change it.

e. Rationale for Decision:

(1) The Board determined the discharge is inequitable based on the applicant's diagnoses of Anxiety Do, Depressive DO and VA service connection for PTSD mitigate the offense of AWOL. Therefore, the Board voted to grant relief in the form of an upgrade to the characterization of service to Honorable and directed the issue of a new DD Form 214 changing the separation authority to AR 635-200, paragraph 14-12a, the narrative reason for separation to Misconduct (Minor Infractions), and the separation code to JKN. The Board determined the RE Code was proper and equitable and voted not to change it.

(2) The Board voted to change the reason for discharge to Misconduct (Minor Infractions) under the same rationale, thus the reason for discharge is no longer appropriate. The SPD code associated with the new reason for discharge is JKN.

ARMY DISCHARGE REVIEW BOARD CASE REPORT AND DIRECTIVE

AR20220000417

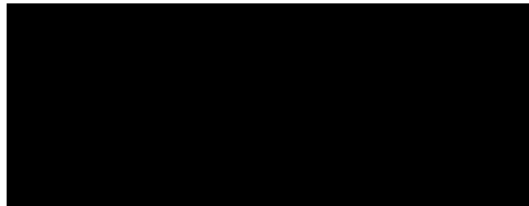
(3) The RE code will not change, as the current code is consistent with the procedural and substantive requirements of the regulation.

10. BOARD ACTION DIRECTED:

- a. Issue a New DD-214 / Separation Order: Yes
- b. Change Characterization to: Honorable
- c. Change Reason / SPD code to: Misconduct (Minor Infractions)/JKN
- d. Change RE Code to: No Change
- e. Change Authority to: No Change

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