

1. Applicant's Name: [REDACTED]

a. **Application Date:** 10 September 2021

b. **Date Received:** 20 September 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 general (under honorable conditions). The applicant requests an upgrade to honorable.

b. **Applicant Contention(s)/Issue(s):** The applicant requests relief contending, in effect, due to medical records showing the applicant had injuries at the time of discharge which prevented the applicant from being able to perform physically and medical staff at the time did not properly diagnose those injuries. During the timeframe the command team also made the applicant continue to run and perform task which made the injuries worse resulting in failed PT tests. The only negative mark throughout entire career was this short period of time while the applicant was injured.

a. **Board Type and Decision:** In a records review conducted on 24 February 2026, and by a 3-0 vote, the Board determined the discharge was inequitable based on the applicant's length and quality of service in relation to the basis for separation. Therefore, the Board voted to grant relief in the form of an upgrade of the characterization of service to Honorable. The Board determined that the narrative reason for separation and the RE-code was 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:** Physical Standards / AR 635-200, Chapter 13-2E / JFT / RE-3 / General (Under Honorable Conditions)

b. **Date of Discharge:** 1 November 2017

c. **Separation Facts:**

(1) **Date of Notification of Intent to Separate:** 10 October 2017

(2) **Basis for Separation:** The applicant was informed of the following reasons: For Unsatisfactory Performance. The applicant failed two consecutive record Army Physical Fitness Tests, on 11 May 2017 and on 3 August 2017.

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

(4) **Legal Consultation Date:** 11 October 2017

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

(6) **Separation Decision Date / Characterization:** 20 October 2017 / General (Under Honorable Conditions)

5. SERVICE DETAILS:

a. Date / Period of Reenlistment Under Review: 3 February 2016 / 4 years

b. Age at Enlistment / Education / GT Score: 23 / some college / 97

c. Highest Grade Achieved / MOS / Total Service: E-4 / 31K1O, Military Working Dog / 5 years, 5 month, 18 days

d. Prior Service / Characterizations: RA, 14 May 2012 – 2 February 2016 / HD

e. Overseas Service / Combat Service: None

f. Awards and Decorations: ARCOM, AAM, AGCM, NDSM, GWOTSM, ASR

g. Performance Ratings: NA

h. Disciplinary Action(s) / Evidentiary Record:

(1) Army Physical Fitness Test Scorecards reflects the applicant failed record APFTs on 14 April 2017, 11 May 2017, 13 June 2017, 11 July 2017, and 3 August 2017.

(2) Developmental Counseling Form for record APFT Failure (2nd).

(3) The applicant provided VA disability rating, 2 November 2017, which indicates the applicant was granted 60 percent combined disability rating, for left knee condition, left knee instability, right knee condition, hypertension, right shoulder posterior instability of glenohumeral joint with tendonitis, femoral nerve, and lumbosacral strain with arthritis.

i. Lost Time / Mode of Return: None

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

(1) **Applicant provided:** None

(2) **AMHRR Listed:**

(a) Report of Mental Status Evaluation (MSE), 29 August 2017, indicates the applicant was cleared for any administrative actions the command deemed appropriate. The exam included clinical interview, review of BHDP, and review of medical records. The exam finds there is no indication of psychiatric disorder which would warrant consideration of medical separation. The MSE does not include a diagnosis.

(b) Report of Medical Examination, 15 September 2017, the examining medical physician noted in the comments section: Hx ADHD.

(c) Report of Medical History, 15 September 2017, the examining medical physician noted in the comments section: Behavioral Health.

6. APPLICANT-PROVIDED EVIDENCE: Application for the Review of Discharge and VA Disability Rating.

7. POST SERVICE ACCOMPLISHMENTS: None submitted with the application.

8. 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.

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

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

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

(3) Chapter 15 provides explicitly for separation under the prerogative of the Secretary of the Army. Secretarial plenary separation authority is exercised sparingly and seldom delegated. Ordinarily, it is used when no other provision of this regulation applies, and early separation is clearly in the Army's best interest. Separations under this paragraph are effective only if approved in writing by the Secretary of the Army or the Secretary's approved designee as announced in updated memoranda. Secretarial separation authority is normally exercised on a case-by-case basis. If Secretarial Authority is granted normally correct the record to show the following:

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

h. Army Regulation 635-5-1 (Separation Program Designator (SPD) Codes), provides the specific authorities (regulatory or directive), reasons for separating Soldiers from active duty, and the SPD codes to be entered on the DD Form 214. It identifies the SPD code of "JFT" as the appropriate code to assign enlisted Soldiers who are discharged under the provisions of Army Regulation 635-200, in effect at the time, Chapter 13-2e, Physical standards.

9. SUMMARY OF FACT(S): Standard of Review. The Army Discharge Review Board considers applications for upgrade as instructed by Department of Defense Instruction 1332.28.

a. The applicant requests an upgrade to honorable. The applicant's Army Military Human Resources Record (AMHRR), the issues, and documents submitted with the application were carefully reviewed.

b. The available evidence reflects the applicant received notification of the intent to discharge them from the U.S. Army for Unsatisfactory Performance, the applicant failed two consecutive record Army Physical Fitness Tests, the applicant requested consulting counsel and representation by military counsel 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 physical standards.

c. The applicant contends the medical records show the applicant had injuries at the time of discharge which prevented them from being able to perform physically and medical staff at the time did not properly diagnose those injuries. During the timeframe, the command team made the applicant continue to run and perform tasks which made the injuries worse resulting in failed PT test. The applicant provided VA disability rating, 2 November 2017, which indicates the applicant was granted 60 percent combined disability rating, for left knee condition, left knee instability, right knee condition, hypertension, right shoulder posterior instability of glenohumeral

joint with tendonitis, femoral nerve, and lumbosacral strain with arthritis. The AMHRR does not indicate or provide evidence of arbitrary or capricious actions by the command.

10. BOARD DISCUSSION AND DETERMINATION:

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

(1) Did the applicant have a condition or experience that may excuse or mitigate the discharge? **No**. The applicant provided no documents or testimony of a condition or experience, that, when applying liberal consideration, could have excused or mitigated a discharge.

(2) Did the condition exist or experience occur during military service? **N/A**

(3) Does the condition or experience actually excuse or mitigate the discharge? **N/A**

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

b. Prior Decisions Cited: None

c. Response to Contention(s): The applicant contends the medical records show the applicant had injuries at the time of discharge which prevented them from being able to perform physically and medical staff at the time did not properly diagnose those injuries. During the timeframe, the command team made the applicant continue to run and perform tasks which made the injuries worse resulting in failed PT test. The Board considered this contention and ultimately found that the applicant's record demonstrated strong length and quality of service, supporting an upgrade. The Board determined the discharge was inequitable and voted to award an Honorable characterization.

d. The Board determined the discharge was inequitable based on the applicant's length and quality of service in relation to the basis for separation. Therefore, the Board voted to grant relief in the form of an upgrade of the characterization of service to Honorable. The Board determined that the narrative reason for separation and the RE-code was proper and equitable and voted not to change them.

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 to change the applicant's characterization of service to Honorable based on the applicant's length and quality of service, which rendered the original characterization inequitable.

(3) The Board voted not to change the applicant's reason for discharge or accompanying SPD code because both were supported by the record and remained proper and equitable in relation to the basis for separation.

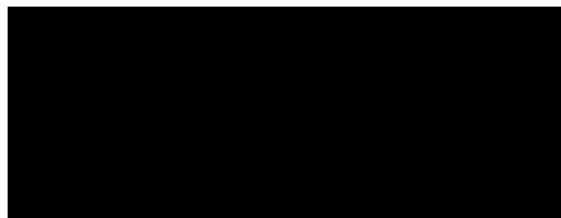
(4) The RE code will not change, as the current code is consistent with the procedural and substantive requirements of the regulation.

10. BOARD ACTION DIRECTED:

- a. Issue a New DD-214 / Separation Order: No
- b. Change Characterization to: Honorable
- c. Change Reason / SPD code to: No Change
- d. Change RE Code to: No Change
- e. Change Authority to: AR 635-200

Authenticating Official:

3/13/2026



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