

1. Applicant's Name: [REDACTED]**a. Application Date:** 23 September 2021**b. Date Received:** 27 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, along with a separation program designator (SPD) code and reentry (RE) code change.

b. Applicant Contention(s)/Issue(s): The applicant requests relief contending, in effect, the applicant was wounded with head injuries during airborne operations, which resulted in a TBI. Medical health conditions, including PTSD, and the applicant self-medicating use of alcohol, depression, childcare problems, and personal and financial struggles impaired the applicant's ability to serve. At the time, the applicant did not understand the feeling of postpartum depression, PTSD, TBI or something as simple as not sleeping. The punishments the applicant received were too severe compared with today's standards and resulted in a miscarriage. The applicant endured endless degrading, belittling verbal abuse for years, and hazing before, but mostly after being deployed to Iraq. The applicant finally broke and needed support, but instead the applicant was shamed and made fun of while the applicant was down.

c. Board Type and Decision: In a records review conducted on 12 February 2026, and by a 3-0 vote, the Board granted the request was inequitable. The Board determined the discharge is inequitable based on medical/BH mitigation for the Basis of Separation. The board voted to upgrade due to this medical mitigation and the applicant's length, combat experience and quality of service. The board determined no upgrade was warranted for the reentry code as it was proper and equitable. 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: Alcohol Rehabilitation Failure / AR 635-200, Chapter 9 / JPD / RE-4 / General (Under Honorable Conditions)

b. Date of Discharge: 3 December 2013**c. Separation Facts:**

(1) Date of Notification of Intent to Separate: 25 October 2013

(2) Basis for Separation: The applicant was informed of the following reasons: The applicant was deemed an Army Substance Abuse Program Failure.

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

(4) Legal Consultation Date: 29 October 2013

(5) Administrative Separation Board: N/A

(6) Separation Decision Date / Characterization: 7 November 2013 / General
(Under Honorable Conditions)

4. SERVICE DETAILS:

- a. Date / Period of Reenlistment Under Review:** 19 April 2013 / 4 years
- b. Age at Enlistment / Education / GT Score:** 25 / High School Graduate / 101
- c. Highest Grade Achieved / MOS / Total Service:** E-4 / 92G1P, Food Service Specialist / 4 years, 3 months, 10 days
- d. Prior Service / Characterizations:** RA, 24 August 2009 – 18 April 2013 / HD
- e. Overseas Service / Combat Service:** SWA / Iraq, 27 May 2011 – 18 November 2011
- f. Awards and Decorations:** ARCOM, AAM-2, NDSM, GWOTSM, ICM-CS, ASR
- g. Performance Ratings:** N/A
- h. Disciplinary Action(s) / Evidentiary Record:**

(1) Company Grade Article 15, 9 July 2013, reflects the applicant failed to go at the time prescribed to the applicant's appointed place of duty. The punishment included reduction to private first class/E-3; forfeiture of \$470 pay, suspended, to be automatically remitted if not vacated before 7 October 2013; and extra duty for 14 days, suspended, to be automatically remitted if not vacated before 7 October 2013. (Provided by applicant)

(2) Memorandum, subject: Summary of Rehabilitation Efforts in the Army Substance Abuse Program (ASAP), 23 September 2013, reflects the applicant was medically referred to the ASAP on 22 June 2013 due to excessive alcohol use. On 8 July 2013, the applicant's ASAP treatment plan required that the applicant abstain from the use of alcohol and illegal drugs, attend multiple individual and group counseling to learn, develop and implement coping skills to manage stressors, and develop and implement relapse prevention skills to reduce and manage the applicant's addictions. The applicant attended one scheduled individual counseling session. On or about 17 August 2013, the applicant was involved in a bar brawl and drank alcohol. On 19 August 2013, the applicant presented to ASAP for individual counseling and admitted to the ASAP counselor that the applicant was involved in a bar brawl over the weekend and drank "one shot of liquor." On 23 August 2013, during a Progress Rehabilitation Team Meeting, the applicant was deemed a "Rehabilitation Failure" due to the applicant's continued use of alcohol and subsequent alcohol related incident while enrolled in the ASAP. The applicant expressed understanding and the applicant was offered to continue ASAP for treatment and transitional counselling and the applicant agreed. The applicant's commander also agreed that the applicant continue rehabilitation in ASAP until separation from the Army.

- 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) Four pages of military medical documents, which state, in part, the applicant was diagnosed with a threatened miscarriage and depression.

(b) DD Form 2807-1 (Report of Medical History), 7 October 2013, which reflects the applicant was prescribed Trazodone, Effexor, and the applicant was evaluated at Womack Army Medical Center/Robinson Health Clinic for depression, suicidal intent, troubling sleeping, anxiety, severe headaches, and head injury (memory loss and amnesia).

(2) AMHRR provided: None

5. APPLICANT-PROVIDED EVIDENCE: DD Form 293, Personal Statement; ERB; medical documents (4 pages); Separation Documents; Certificates and Awards (16); Letters of Support (13); and a Department of Veteran Affairs Certification Letter.

6. POST SERVICE ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Bachelor's Degree and a member of numerous organizations (Per the Applicant's Personal Statement). Volunteers at Let's Get Uncomfortable, a non-profit organization.

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), dated 25 September 2019, 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 waivable and nonwaivable 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 waivable. Eligibility: Ineligible unless a waiver is granted.

- 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. Army Regulation 635-200 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. It states:

(a) 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) 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 9 outlines the procedures for discharging individuals because of alcohol or other drug abuse. A member who has been referred to the Army Substance Abuse Program (ASAP) for alcohol or drug abuse may be separated because of inability or refusal to participate in, cooperate in, or successfully complete such a program if there is a lack of potential for continued Army service and rehabilitation efforts are no longer practical.

(3) Paragraph 9-4 stipulates the service of Soldiers discharged under this section will be characterized as honorable or under honorable conditions unless the Soldier is in entry-level status and an uncharacterized description of service is required. An honorable discharge is mandated in any case in which the Government initially introduces into the final discharge process limited use evidence as defined by AR 600-85.

(4) 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 "JPD" as the appropriate code to assign enlisted Soldiers who are discharged under the provisions of Army Regulation 635-200, Chapter 9, Alcohol Rehabilitation Failure.

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

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

b. The applicant requests an SPD code and RE code change. SPD codes are three-character alphabetic combinations that identify reasons for, and types of, separation from active duty. The primary purpose of SPD codes is to provide statistical accounting of reasons for separation. They are intended exclusively for the internal use of DoD and the Military Services to assist in the collection and analysis of separation data. SPD Codes are controlled by OSD and then implemented in Army policy AR 635-5-1 to track types of separations the SPD code specified by Army Regulations for a discharge under Chapter 9, is "JPD." Army Regulation 635-5, Separation Documents, governs the preparation of the DD Form 214 and dictates the entry of

the 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 any other SPD code to be entered under this regulation.

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.

c. The applicant contends the applicant was wounded with head injuries during airborne operations which resulted in a TBI. Medical health conditions, including PTSD, and the applicant self-medicating use of alcohol, depression, childcare problems, and personal and financial struggles impaired the applicant's ability to serve. The applicant provided medical documentation showing on 7 October 2013, the applicant was evaluated at Womack Army Medical Center/Robinson Health Clinic for depression, suicidal intent, troubling sleeping, anxiety, severe headaches, and head injury (memory loss and amnesia).

d. The applicant contends the punishments the applicant received were too severe compared to today's standards and resulted in a miscarriage. The applicant argues the discharge was an inequitable punishment for the committed offense or offenses. Army Regulation 635-200, chapter 9 states, a member who has been referred to ASAP for alcohol abuse may be separated because of inability or refusal to participate in, cooperate in, or successfully complete such a program if there is a lack of potential for continued Army service and rehabilitation efforts are no longer practical. The applicant admitted to drinking liquor after entering the ASAP program, which indicated a refusal to participate in the successful completion of the program. Additionally, it is unclear whether the applicant's discharge proceedings caused a miscarriage; however, the applicant did provide four pages of military medical documents, which state the applicant was diagnosed with a threatened miscarriage and depression.

e. The applicant contends the applicant endured endless degrading, belittling verbal abuse for years, and hazing before, but mostly after being deployed to Iraq. The applicant needed support, but instead the applicant was shamed and made fun of while the applicant was down. However, the applicant provided no supporting evidence beyond their statement. The AMHRR includes no evidence the applicant sought assistance or reported the harassment.

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: Anxiety Disorder, Depression, as well as experiencing two concussive episodes.

(2) Did the condition exist, or experience occur during military service? **Yes.** The Board's Medical Advisor found the applicant is service connected for PTSD and TBI.

(3) Does the condition or experience actually excuse or mitigate the discharge? **Yes.** The Board's Medical Advisor applied liberal consideration and opined the applicant asserts PTSD and TBI, along with multiple psychosocial stressors that impacted her while in service. The medical record shows she experienced multiple in-service stressors and was diagnosed

with Anxiety Disorder; Depression; Adjustment Disorder; and Alcohol Dependence as well as experiencing two concussive episodes. The applicant is service connected for PTSD and TBI. Given the association between PTSD and TBI and the use of substances to cope with the symptoms of the disorders, the applicant's failure to comply with ASAP treatment, by continuing to use alcohol, is mitigated by her BH conditions.

(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/did not outweigh the basis of separation.

b. Prior Decisions Cited: **N/A**

c. Response to Contention(s):

(1) The applicant contends the Army should upgrade the applicant's character of service to honorable, along with an SPD code and RE code change. The Board considered this contention and determined that the applicant did not receive the appropriate SPD code for the discharge specified by AR 635-200, paragraph 14-12a." The SPD code has been upgraded to JKN however, the RE code will not change, as the current code is consistent with the procedural and substantive requirements of the regulation and was proper and equitable.

(2) The applicant contends the applicant was wounded with head injuries during airborne operations which resulted in a TBI. Medical health conditions, including PTSD, and the applicant self-medicating use of alcohol, depression, childcare problems, and personal and financial struggles impaired the applicant's ability to serve. The Board recognizes and appreciates the applicant's willingness to serve and considered this contention during board proceedings along with the totality of the applicant's service record.

(3) The applicant contends the punishments the applicant received were too severe compared to today's standards and resulted in a miscarriage. The Board considered this contention within its deliberation, although results were not substantiated, the severity of the discharge was addressed through the discharge characterization upgrade.

(4) The applicant contends the applicant endured endless degrading, belittling verbal abuse for years, and hazing before, but mostly after being deployed to Iraq. The applicant needed support, but instead the applicant was shamed and made fun of while the applicant was down. The Board determined that this contention was valid and voted to upgrade the characterization of service due to Anxiety Disorder, Depression, as well as experiencing two concussive episodes.

d. In a records review conducted on 12 February 2026, and by a 3-0 vote, the Board granted the request was inequitable. The Board determined the discharge is inequitable based on medical/BH mitigation for the Basis of Separation. The board voted to upgrade due to this medical mitigation and the applicant's length, combat experience and quality of service. The board determined no upgrade was warranted for the reentry code as it was proper and equitable. The Board determined this discharge is inequitable based on the medical/BH mitigation for the Basis of Separation.

e. Rationale for Decision:

ARMY DISCHARGE REVIEW BOARD CASE REPORT AND DIRECTIVE**AR20220000816**

(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 because, after applying liberal consideration of all the evidence before the Board, the applicant's BH diagnoses Anxiety Disorder, Depression and two concussive episodes excused or mitigated the offenses of alcohol misuse and failure to comply to treatment requirements.

(3) The Board voted to change the applicant's reason for discharge or accompanying SPD code under the same pretexts, as the reason the applicant was discharged was. Inequitable.

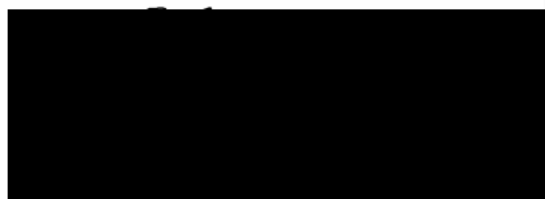
(4) The RE code will not change, as the current code is consistent with the procedural and substantive requirements of the regulation.

10. BOARD ACTION DIRECTED:

- a. Issue a New DD-214 / Separation Order: Yes
- b. Change Characterization to: Honorable
- c. Change Reason / SPD code to: JKN
- d. Change RE Code to: No Change
- e. Change Authority to: AR 635-200, paragraph 14-12a

Authenticating Official:

2/20/2026

**Legend:**

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

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

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

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