

1. Applicant's Name: [REDACTED]**a. Application Date:** 18 January 2022**b. Date Received:** 18 January 2022**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 the discharge resulted from retaliation, mental health struggles, and discrimination following reclassification to a combat MOS. Upon joining a scout unit, the applicant faced efforts by leadership to remove rank due to perceived lack of combat experience. While deployed, the applicant was accused of misconduct and fraternization. Post-deployment, the applicant experienced emotional turmoil, alcohol use, and disciplinary issues stemming from undiagnosed PTSD. The applicant was continuously targeted, drained, and ultimately discharged despite long-standing service goals and performance. The applicant later received a 100 percent VA rating for PTSD and maintains a commitment to health, education, and military values. The applicant expresses remorse and requests an honorable discharge to support educational and career advancement.

c. Board Type and Decision: In a records review conducted on 14 October 2025, and by a 4-1 vote. In a records review conducted on 14 October 2025, and by a 5-0 vote. The Board approved the applicant's request after determining that the separation was inequitable. As a result, the Board voted to grant relief by upgrading the characterization of service to Honorable and revising the narrative reason for separation with a code of JKN. The Board further concluded that the existing Re-entry code was appropriate and equitable and therefore elected not to modify it. 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: Pattern of Misconduct / AR 635-200, Chapter 14-12b / JKA / RE-3 / General (Under Honorable Conditions)

b. Date of Discharge: 26 October 2011

c. Separation Facts:

(1) Date of Notification of Intent to Separate: 20 July 2011

(2) Basis for Separation: The applicant was informed of the following reasons: The applicant received a completed Field Grade Article 15 on 14 March 2010 for borrowing money from a Soldier lower in rank. The applicant also received a Field Grade Article 15 on 5 May 2011 for a false official statement and for wearing an unauthorized Air Assault Badge.

(3) Recommended Characterization: Under Other Than Honorable Conditions

(4) Legal Consultation Date: 26 July 2011 and 5 October 2011

(5) Administrative Separation Board:

(a) On 26 July 2011 the applicant elected for an administrative separation board

(b) On 5 October 2011 the applicant withdrew the election for an administrative separation board and conditionally waived the administrative separation board contingent upon receiving a general (under honorable conditions) characterization of service.

(c) On 13 October 2011 the waiver was approved.

(6) Separation Decision Date / Characterization: 13 October 2011 / General (Under Honorable Conditions)

4. SERVICE DETAILS:

a. Date / Period of Reenlistment Under Review: 11 July 2007 / 5 years

b. Age at Enlistment / Education / GT Score: 21 / GED / 88

c. Highest Grade Achieved / MOS / Total Service: E-5 / 19D1P D3 B9, Calvary Scout / 7 years, 6 months, 18 days

d. Prior Service / Characterizations: USAR, 26 April 2004 – 7 September 2005 / HD
IADT, 30 June 2004 – 3 June 2004 / NA
(Concurrent Service)
RA, 8 September 2005 – 10 July 2007 / HD

e. Overseas Service / Combat Service: SWA / Iraq (8 October 2009 – 30 September 2010)

f. Awards and Decorations: AAM-2, AGCM, NDSM, GWOTSM, ICM-CS, ASR

g. Performance Ratings: 1 December 2009 – 31 March 2010 / Successful

h. Disciplinary Action(s) / Evidentiary Record:

(1) Field Grade Record of Proceedings under Article 15, Uniform Code of Military Justice, 14 March 2010, indicates the applicant was found to have wrongfully borrowed money from PFC B. I. The imposed punishment included a reduction to E-4, forfeiture of \$1,099 pay (suspended).

(2) Field Grade Record of Proceedings under Article 15, Uniform Code of Military Justice, 5 May 2011, indicates the applicant was found to on or about 30 March 2011 with the intent to deceive issued a false official statement to wit the applicant attended air assault school in 2007 which statement was totally false and was then known by the applicant to be false. The imposed punishment included a reduction to E-3, forfeiture of \$975 pay per month for two months (suspended), along with 45 days of extra duty.

(3) Developmental Counseling Forms document instances of notifying the applicant of recommendation of separation under Chapter 14-12c, Commission of a Serious Offense.

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) VA Benefits Decision letter, 21 October 2021, reflects the applicant was granted a combined rating of 100 percent. The applicant was granted a service-connected rating of 100 percent for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) with alcohol use disorder and tobacco use disorder (previously rated post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) with unspecified depressive disorder).

(b) Baltimore VA Medical Center letter, 5 January 2022, reflects the applicant was diagnosed with PTSD and receiving treatment.

(2) AMHRR Listed: Chronological Record of Medical Care, 15 April 2009, reflects the applicant had received care for adjustment disorder with anxiety and depressed mood and adjustment disorder with depressed mood.

5. APPLICANT-PROVIDED EVIDENCE: Application for the Review of Discharge; Baltimore VA Medical Center letter; VA Disability Decision letter.

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

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

a. Section 1553, Title 10, United States Code (Review of Discharge or Dismissal) provides for the creation, composition, and scope of review conducted by a Discharge Review Board(s) within established governing standards. As amended by Sections 521 and 525 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020, 10 USC 1553 provides specific guidance to the Military Boards for Correction of Military/Naval Records and Discharge Review Boards when considering discharge upgrade requests by Veterans claiming Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), sexual trauma, intimate partner violence (IPV), or spousal abuse, as a basis for discharge review. The amended guidance provides that Boards will include, as a voting board member, a physician trained in mental health disorders, a clinical psychologist, or a psychiatrist when the discharge upgrade claim asserts a mental health condition, including PTSD, TBI, sexual trauma, IPV, or spousal abuse, as a basis for the discharge. Further, the guidance provides that Military Boards for Correction of Military/Naval Records and Discharge Review Boards will develop and provide specialized training specific to sexual trauma, IPV, spousal abuse, as well as the various responses of individuals to trauma.

b. Office, Secretary of Defense memorandum (Supplemental Guidance to Military Boards for Correction of Military/Naval Records Considering Discharge Upgrade Requests by Veterans Claiming Post Traumatic Stress Disorder), 3 September 2014, directed the Service Discharge Review Boards (DRBs) and Service Boards for Correction of Military/Naval Records (BCM/NRs) to carefully consider the revised PTSD criteria, detailed medical considerations and mitigating factors when taking action on applications from former service members administratively discharged UOTHC and who have been diagnosed with PTSD by a competent mental health professional representing a civilian healthcare provider in order to determine if it would be appropriate to upgrade the characterization of the applicant's service.

c. Office, Under Secretary of Defense memorandum (Clarifying Guidance to Military Discharge Review Boards and Boards for Correction of Military/Naval Records Considering Requests by Veterans for Modification of their Discharge Due to Mental Health Conditions, Sexual Assault, or Sexual Harassment), 25 August 2017 issued clarifying guidance for the Secretary of Defense Directive to DRBs and BCM/NRs when considering requests by Veterans for modification of their discharges due in whole or in part to mental health conditions, including PTSD; Traumatic Brain Injury; sexual assault; or sexual harassment. Boards are to give liberal consideration to Veterans petitioning for discharge relief when the application for relief is based in whole or in part to those conditions or experiences. The guidance further describes evidence sources and criteria and requires Boards to consider the conditions or experiences presented in evidence as potential mitigation for misconduct that led to the discharge.

d. Office, Under Secretary of Defense memorandum (Guidance to Military Discharge Review Boards and Boards for Correction of Military/Naval Records Regarding Equity, Injustice, or Clemency Determinations), 25 July 2018 issued guidance to Military DRBs and BCM/NRs regarding equity, injustice, or clemency determinations. Clemency generally refers to relief specifically granted from a criminal sentence. However, the guidance applies to more than clemency from a sentencing in a court-martial; it also applies to other corrections, including changes in a discharge, which may be warranted based on equity or relief from injustice.

(1) This guidance does not mandate relief but rather provides standards and principles to guide Boards in application of their equitable relief authority. In determining whether to grant relief on the basis of equity, injustice, or clemency grounds, DRBs shall consider the prospect for rehabilitation, external evidence, sworn testimony, policy changes, relative severity of misconduct, mental and behavioral health conditions, official governmental acknowledgement that a relevant error or injustice was committed, and uniformity of punishment.

(2) Changes to the narrative reason for discharge and/or an upgraded character of service granted solely on equity, injustice, or clemency grounds normally should not result in separation pay, retroactive promotions, and payment of past medical expenses or similar benefits that might have been received if the original discharge had been for the revised reason or had the upgraded service characterization.

e. Army Regulation 15-180 (Army Discharge Review Board) sets forth the policies and procedures under which the Army Discharge Review Board is authorized to review the character, reason, and authority of any Servicemember discharged from active military service within 15 years of the Servicemember's date of discharge. Additionally, it prescribes actions and composition of the Army Discharge Review Board under Public Law 95-126; Section 1553, Title 10 United States Code; and Department of Defense Directive 1332.41 and Instruction 1332.28.

f. Army Regulation 601-210, Regular Army, and Reserve Components Enlistment Program, governs eligibility criteria, policies, and procedures for enlistment and processing of persons into the Regular Army, the U.S. Army Reserve, and Army National Guard for enlistment per DODI 1304.26. It also prescribes the appointment, reassignment, management, and mobilization of Reserve Officers' Training Corps cadets under the Simultaneous Membership Program. Chapter 4 provides the criteria and procedures for waiverable and nonwaiverable separations. Table 3-1, defines reentry eligibility (RE) codes:

- RE-1 Applies to: Person completing his or her term of active service who is considered qualified to reenter the U.S. Army. Eligibility: Qualified for enlistment if all other criteria are met.

▪ RE-3 Applies to: Person who is not considered fully qualified for reentry or continuous service at time of separation, but disqualification is waivable. 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 14 establishes policy and prescribes procedures for separating members for misconduct. Specific categories include minor disciplinary infractions, a pattern of misconduct, and commission of a serious offense, to include abuse of illegal drugs, convictions by civil authorities and desertion or being absent without leave. Action will be taken to separate a member for misconduct when it is clearly established that rehabilitation is impractical or unlikely to succeed. Paragraph 14-12b, addresses a pattern of misconduct consisting of either discreditable involvement with civilian or military authorities or discreditable conduct and conduct prejudicial to good order and discipline including conduct violating the accepted standards of personal conduct found in the Uniform Code of Military Justice, Army Regulations, the civilian law and time-honored customs and traditions of the Army.

(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: RE-1
- 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 "JKA" as the appropriate code to assign enlisted Soldiers who are discharged under the provisions of Army Regulation 635-200, Chapter 14, paragraph 12b, pattern of misconduct.

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

b. The applicant was notified for recommendation of separation because the applicant received a completed Field Grade Article 15 on 14 March 2010 for borrowing money from a Soldier lower in rank. The applicant also received a Field Grade Article 15 on 5 May 2011 for a false official statement and for wearing an unauthorized Air Assault Badge. The applicant conditionally waived an administrative separation board contingent upon receiving a general (under honorable conditions) characterization of service. The waiver was approved, and the applicant was separated with a general (under honorable conditions) for patterns of misconduct.

c. The applicant contends post-deployment, the applicant experiencing emotional turmoil, alcohol use, and disciplinary issues stemming from undiagnosed PTSD. The applicant provided a Baltimore VA Medical Center letter stating the applicant was diagnosed with PTSD and receiving treatment. The applicant also provided a VA Disability Decision letter stating the applicant was granted 100 percent service-connect disability for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) with alcohol use disorder and tobacco use disorder (previously rated post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) with unspecified depressive disorder). The AMHRR reflects the applicant had received treatment for depressive mood and depressive mood with anxiety.

d. The applicant contends the discharge resulted from retaliation and being continuously targeted, drained, and ultimately discharged despite long-standing service goals and performance. The applicant provided no supporting evidence beyond their statement to support the contention. The AMHRR does not indicate or provide evidence of arbitrary or capricious actions by the command.

e. The applicant contends an upgrade would provide access to educational benefits. Eligibility for veterans' benefits, including Post-9/11 or Montgomery GI Bill educational assistance, does not fall under the purview of the Army Discharge Review Board. The applicant should contact a local Department of Veterans Affairs office for further assistance.

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: PTSD, various Adjustment Disorders.

(2) Did the condition exist or experience occur during military service? **Yes.** The Board's Medical Advisor found the applicant is 100 percent SC for PTSD.

(3) Does the condition or experience actually excuse or mitigate the discharge? **No.** The Board's Medical Advisor applied liberal consideration and opined that a review of the available information shows the applicant has BH conditions that potentially mitigates his misconduct as outlined in the BoS. The applicant is 100 percent SC for PTSD and was diagnosed during his TIS with Adjustment Disorder. However, the applicant's misconduct is not mitigated as there is no nexus between either of his BH condition and his misconduct, and he

did not have a condition that impaired his ability to differentiate between right and wrong and adhere to the right.

(4) Does the condition or experience outweigh the discharge? **No.** After applying liberal consideration to the evidence, including the Board Medical Advisor's opine, the Board determined that the available evidence did not support a conclusion that the applicant's conditions outweighed the medically unmitigated list offenses.

b. Prior Decisions Cited: NA

c. Response to Contention(s):

(1) The applicant contends post-deployment, the applicant experiencing emotional turmoil, alcohol use, and disciplinary issues stemming from undiagnosed PTSD. The board considered this contention however, with agreement with the Medical Advisor opined the applicant's misconduct is not mitigated as there is no nexus between either of his BH condition and his misconduct, and he did not have a condition that impaired his ability to differentiate between right and wrong and adhere to the right.

(2) The applicant contends the discharge resulted from retaliation and being continuously targeted, drained, and ultimately discharged despite long-standing service goals and performance. The Board considered this contention during proceedings, but ultimately did not address the contention due to an upgrade being granted for Honorable discharged based on the applicant's length and quality of service, to include combat service

(3) The applicant contends an upgrade would provide access to educational benefits. The Board considered this contention and voted Honorable discharged for applicant. Accordingly, the applicant should contact a local office of the Department of Veterans Affairs for further assistance.

d. The Board determined the applicant's request after determining that the separation was inequitable. As a result, the Board voted to grant relief by upgrading the characterization of service to Honorable and revising the narrative reason for separation with a code of JKN. The Board further concluded that the existing reentry code was appropriate and equitable and therefore elected not to modify it.

e. Rationale for Decision:

(1) The Board voted to change the applicant's characterization of service to Honorable. The Board determined the discharge is inequitable based on reasons of inequity for similar offenses for the Basis of Separation.

(2) The Board voted to change the applicant's reason for discharge or accompanying SPD code to JKN.

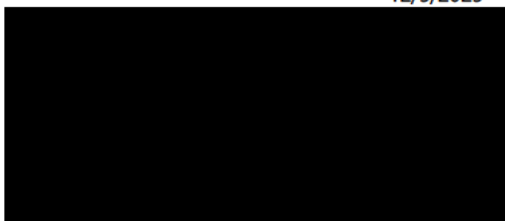
(3) The RE code will not change, as the current code is consistent with the procedural and substantive requirements of the regulation.

10. BOARD ACTION DIRECTED:

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

Authenticating Official:

12/5/2025



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
 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