

1. Applicant's Name: [REDACTED]

a. **Application Date:** 8 December 2021

b. **Date Received:** 8 December 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 uncharacterized. The applicant requests an honorable characterization of service.

b. **Applicant Contention(s)/Issue(s):** The applicant requests relief, contending the applicant was discharged from service due to the discovery that the applicant had Diabetes Mellitus (Type II Diabetes) during training. It was discovered when the applicant was sent to the Troop Medical Clinic for a left ankle injury incurred during training. The applicant was later issued a Line of Duty determination for that injury by the Texas National Guard after returning home. That initial injury has resulted in two ankle surgeries and various sequelae. The applicant states the applicant is now 100% Service Connected with the Permanent and Total designation.

c. **Board Type and Decision:** In a records review conducted on 21 August 2025, and by a 5-0 vote, the Board denied the request upon finding the separation was both 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:** Failed medical physical procurement standards / Army Regulation 635-200, Paragraph 5-11 / Separation Code "JFW" / Reentry code "3" / uncharacterized.

b. **Date of Discharge:** 18 June 2009

c. **Separation Facts:**

(1) **Date Entrance Physical Standards Board (EPSBD) convened:** 2 June 2009

(2) **EPSBD Findings:** The findings of the evaluating physicians indicate the applicant was medically unfit for appointment or enlistment in accordance with current medical fitness standards and in the opinion of the evaluating physicians the condition existed prior to service. The applicant was diagnosed with Diabetes Mellitus Type II - Uncomplicated, Uncontrolled and Essential Hypertension.

(3) **Date Applicant Reviewed and concurred with the Findings and Requested to be discharged from the Army without delay:** 5 June 2009

(4) **Separation Decision Date / Characterization:** 11 June 2009 / Uncharacterized

4. SERVICE DETAILS:

a. **Date / Period of Enlistment Under Review:** 5 January 2009 / 8 years, ARNG

- b. **Age at Enlistment / Education / GT Score:** 24 / HS Graduate / NIF
- c. **Highest Grade Achieved / MOS / Total Service:** E-3 / None / 1 month and 6 days.
- d. **Prior Service / Characterizations:** ARNG, 5 January 2009 - 19 June 2009 / UNC
- e. **Overseas Service / Combat Service:** None
- f. **Awards and Decorations:** None
- g. **Performance Ratings:** None
- h. **Disciplinary Action(s) / Evidentiary Record:** N/A
- i. **Lost Time / Mode of Return:** N/A

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.

k. **Applicant provided:** None

l. **AMHRR provided:** None

5. APPLICANT-PROVIDED EVIDENCE: DD Form 214, Statement of Medical Examination, Line of Duty Determination, Presidential Scholarship Award Certificate, Bachelor’s degree, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) discharge letter, VA benefits summary letter.

6. POST SERVICE ACCOMPLISHMENTS: The applicant submits documents showing the applicant was awarded a Bachelor’s degree.

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

a. 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.

b. 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.

c. 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.

d. 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.

e. 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:

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

(2) RE-3 Applies to: Person who is not considered fully qualified for reentry or continuous service at time of separation, but disqualification is waivable. Eligibility: Ineligible unless a waiver is granted.

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

f. 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 separation will be described as entry-level with service uncharacterized if processing is initiated while a Soldier is in entry-level status. This characterization is when the Soldier is separated by reason of selected changes in service obligation, convenience of the Government, and Secretarial plenary authority. A Soldier is in an entry-level status (ELS) if the Soldier has not completed more than 180 days of creditable continuous active duty prior to the initiation of separation action.

(2) Chapter 5 provides for the basic separation of enlisted personnel for the convenience of the government. It provides that Soldiers who were not medically qualified under procurement medical fitness standards, when accepted for enlistment, or who became medically disqualified under these standards prior to entry on active duty or active-duty training or initial entry training will be separated. A medical proceeding, regardless of the date completed, must establish that a medical condition was identified by appropriate medical authority within six months of the Soldier's initial entrance on active duty, that the condition would have permanently or temporarily disqualified the Soldier for entry into the military service had it been detected at that time, and the medical condition does not disqualify the Soldier from being retained in the service under the provisions of AR 40-501, Chapter 3. The characterization of service for Soldiers separated under this provision of the regulation will normally be honorable. However, for Soldiers in entry-level status, it will be uncharacterized.

(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

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 an honorable characterization of service. The applicant's AMHRR, the issues, and documents submitted with the application were carefully reviewed.

b. The applicant's service record shows the applicant was discharged during basic combat training as an entry level Soldier after an EPSBD recommended the applicant be separated from the U.S. Army for failure to meet medical procurement standards. The EPSBD notes the applicant's diagnosis of Diabetes Mellitus Type II - Uncomplicated, Uncontrolled and Essential Hypertension.

c. An uncharacterized discharge is neither positive nor negative and it is not meant to be a negative reflection of a Soldier's military service. It merely means that the Soldier has not been in the Army long enough for his or her character of service to be rated as honorable or otherwise. The applicant was in an ELS at the time of the separation.

d. The applicant contends the applicant was discharged from service due to the discovery that the applicant had Diabetes Mellitus (Type II Diabetes) during training. It was discovered when the applicant was sent to the Troop Medical Clinic for a left ankle injury incurred during training. The applicant was later issued a Line of Duty determination for that injury by the Texas National Guard after returning home.

e. The applicant states the applicant is requesting an upgrade the applicant's character of service to apply for a Certificate of Eligibility from the VA Home Loans Department. Eligibility for veteran's benefits does not fall within the purview of the Army Discharge Review Board. Accordingly, the applicant should contact a local office of the Department of Veterans Affairs for further assistance. The Board does not grant relief to make an applicant eligible for veteran benefits.

f. The applicant states the applicant became a successful civil servant working for both the Veterans Health and Veterans Benefit Administrations before eventually being forced to retire due to my medical conditions in August of 2018. The Army Discharge Review Board is authorized to consider post-service factors in the recharacterization of a discharge. No law or regulation provides for the upgrade of an unfavorable discharge based solely on the passage of time or good conduct in civilian life after leaving the service. The Board reviews each discharge on a case-by-case basis to determine if post-service accomplishments help demonstrate previous in-service misconduct was an aberration and not indicative of the member's overall character.

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 diagnosis: Adjustment Disorder.

(2) Did the condition exist, or experience occur during military service? **Yes.** Unknown stressor serving as basis for SD Adjustment Disorder

(3) Does the condition or experience actually excuse or mitigate the discharge? **No.** The Board's Medical Advisor applied liberal consideration and opined that the applicant's discharge was proper and equitable with no indications of impropriety. Although service connected, difficulty adjusting to stressors did not impact her initial fraudulent enlistment ultimately resulting in the discharge.

(4) Does the condition or experience outweigh the discharge? **No.** Based on liberally considering all evidence before the Board, the ADRB determined the condition did not outweigh the discharge.

b. Prior Decisions Cited: NA – Applies to Personal Appearances only.

c. Response to Contention(s): The applicant contends the applicant was discharged from service due to the discovery that the applicant had Diabetes Mellitus (Type II Diabetes) during training.

The Board acknowledged this contention.

d. The Board determined that the discharge is, at this time, proper and equitable, in light of the current evidence of record. The applicant has exhausted all available appeal options available with ADRB. However, the applicant may still apply to the Army Board for Correction of Military Records. The applicant is responsible for satisfying the burden of proof and providing documents or other evidence sufficient to support the applicant's contention(s) that the discharge was improper or inequitable.

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 applicant's petition, available records and any supporting documents included with the petition.

(2) The Board voted not to change the applicant's characterization of service because, despite applying liberal consideration of all the evidence before the Board, in accordance with AR 635-200 and based on the applicant's official record the applicant was separated while in an entry level status and an Uncharacterized discharge is the proper characterization of service except when the DCS, G-1 determines that an Honorable discharge is warranted based on unusual circumstances involving personal conduct and performance of duty, which is not applicable in this case. The Board's Medical Advisor opined the applicant's discharge was proper and equitable with no indications of impropriety. The applicant's difficulty adjusting to stressors did not impact her initial fraudulent enlistment which ultimately resulted in the discharge. Therefore, no change is warranted.

(3) The Board voted not to change the applicant's reason for discharge or accompanying SPD code under the same rationale, as the reason the applicant was discharged was both proper and equitable.

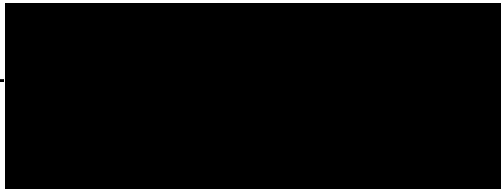
(4) The RE code will not change, as the current code is consistent with the procedural and substantive requirements of the regulation.

10. BOARD ACTION DIRECTED:

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

Authenticating Official:

9/20/2025



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
UOTHC – Under Other Than
Honorable Conditions
VA – Department of Veterans
Affairs