1. Applicant's Name:

a. Application Date: 31 March 2021

b. Date Received: 5 April 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 requests an upgrade to honorable and be medically retired.
- (2) The applicant seeks relief contending, they sustained a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) during a training exercise and was medically evacuated. They were seen at the Emergency Room and have documentation of the injury. They were seen by behavioral health and the TBI clinic. They were denied a Medical Evaluation Board (MEB) and received reprisal. They received nonjudicial punishment under the provisions of Article 15, Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) for failure to report. Their company initiated separation proceedings for Patterns of Misconduct for being late to a formation.
- (3) They have suffered a permanent TBI and have also documented heat stroke which prevented them from doing their job. Their TBI is compounded and service connected with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). They have since become a homeless Veteran and have been hospitalized for suicide attempts. They receive VA disability compensation rated at a combine evaluation of 100-percent due to service connected injuries, to include Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

**Board Type and Decision:** In a records review conducted on 06 December 2024, and by a 5-0 vote, the Board determined the discharge is inequitable based on the applicant's circumstances surrounding the discharge (TBI and PTSD diagnoses). Therefore, the Board voted to grant relief in the form of an upgrade of the characterization of service to Honorable and changed the separation authority to AR 635-200, paragraph 14-12a, the narrative reason for separation to Misconduct (Minor Infractions), with a corresponding separation code of JKN. The Board determined the reentry code of RE-3 is proper and equitable and voted not to change it. *Please see Section 9 of this document for more detail regarding the Board's decision.* 

#### 3. DISCHARGE DETAILS:

- a. Reason / Authority / Codes / Characterization: Pattern of Misconduct / Army Regulation 635-200, Paragraph 14-12B / JKA / RE-3 / General (Under Honorable Conditions)
  - b. Date of Discharge: 2 March 2021
  - c. Separation Facts:
    - (1) Date of Notification of Intent to Separate: 2 February 2021
    - (2) Basis for Separation: The applicant was informed of the following reasons –

- four occurrences of failure to go to their appointed place of duty
- failed to obey a lawful general order by wrongfully failing to maintain the cleanliness of their barracks room
- counseled after each incident and informed if misconduct continued, they may be processed for separation
- they received adequate counseling and rehabilitation
- (3) Recommended Characterization: General (Under Honorable Conditions)
- (4) Legal Consultation Date: 2 February 2021
- (5) Administrative Separation Board: NA
- (6) Separation Decision Date / Characterization: 18 February 2021
- 4. SERVICE DETAILS:
  - a. Date / Period of Enlistment: 4 September 2019 / 3 years, 36 weeks
  - b. Age at Enlistment / Education / GT Score: 22 / HS Diploma / 97
- **c. Highest Grade Achieved / MOS / Total Service:** E-2 / 11B1O, Infantryman / 1 year, 5 months, 29 days
  - d. Prior Service / Characterizations: None
  - e. Overseas Service / Combat Service: None
  - f. Awards and Decorations: NDSM, GWTSM, ASR
  - g. Performance Ratings: NA
  - h. Disciplinary Action(s) / Evidentiary Record:
- (1) Five DA Form 4856 (Developmental Counseling Form) dated 22 June 2020 through 7 August 2020, reflects the applicant receive multiple event oriented counseling for various acts of misconduct, to include four occurrences of failure to report and failure to maintain personal mission essential equipment and barracks room. The applicant agreed with all the information, provided no remarks, and signed the forms.
- **(2)** A DD Form 2808 (Report of Medical Examination) dated 1 December 2020, reflects the examining physician marked "Normal" for all items examined.
  - item 74 (Examinee) reflects the examining physician marked "is medically qualified"
  - item 77 (Significant or Disqualifying Medical Diagnosis) reflects the examining physician marked "None"
  - item 78 (Summary of Medical Diagnosis) reflects the examining physician marked "None"
  - item 79 (Recommendations) reflects the examining physician marked "None"
- (3) A DD Form 2807-1 (Report of Medical History) dated 4 December 2020, reflects the applicant marked "Yes" to multiple items to the question "Have you ever had or do you now

have," to include frequent or severe headaches, a head injury, memory loss or amnesia, and a period of unconsciousness or concussion.

- (a) In item 29 (Explanation of "Yes" Answers) reflects the applicant stated they fell and hit their head during land navigation and was knocked out, unconscious and they have been diagnosed with TBI.
- **(b)** In item 30 (Examiner's Summary and Elaboration of all Pertinent Data) reflects the examining physician comments, the applicant's headaches are treated with Tylenol. The applicant sustained a TBI in March 2020, cleared by Neurology, no issues. The applicant is in treatment in Embedded Behavioral Health, no concerns.
- (4) A DA Form 3822 (Report of Mental Status Evaluation), dated 4 December 2020, reflects the applicant has no duty limitations due to behavioral health reasons and currently meets behavioral health retention standards. Section IV (Diagnoses) reflects "see detailed not in [Environmental Health Record] EHR.". The Behavioral Health Provider states the applicant has not deployed in the last 24 months. The medical record does not contain substantial evidence that the applicant currently meets criteria for a condition requiring referral to Integrated Disability Evaluation System but has not yet received a diagnosis. The applicant is psychiatrically cleared for administrative separation.
- (5) A memorandum, Charlie Troop, 3rd Squadron, 89th Cavalry Regiment, subject: Separation under Army Regulation 635-200, Paragraph 14-12b, A Pattern of Misconduct, [Applicant], dated 2 February 2021, the applicant's company commander notified the applicant of their intent to separate them under the provisions of Army Regulation 635-200, Chapter 14-12b, A Pattern of Misconduct, with a recommended characterization of service general (under honorable conditions) for adverse action described in previous paragraph 3c(2). On the same day, the applicant acknowledged the basis for the separation and of the rights available to them.
- (6) On 2 December 2020, the applicant completed their election of rights signing they had been advised by counsel of the basis for the contemplated action to separation them for a pattern of misconduct under Army Regulation 635-200, paragraph 14-12b, and its effects and of the rights available to them; and of the effect of any action taken by them in waving their rights. They elected not to submit statements in their behalf and waived consulting counsel. They understood that they may expect to encounter substantial prejudice in civilian life if a general (under honorable conditions) discharge is issued to them and further understand that if they receive a discharge/character of service that is less than honorable, they may be ineligible for many, or all benefits as a veteran under both Federal and State laws.
- (7) A memorandum, Charlie Troop, 3rd Squadron, 89th Cavalry Regiment, subject: Commander's Report Proposed Separation under Army Regulation 635-200, Paragraph 14-12b, A Pattern of Misconduct, [Applicant], dated 9 February 2021, reflects the applicant's company commander's recommendation to separate them from the Army prior to the expiration of their current term of service. The company commander states, for record of other disciplinary action, including nonjudicial punishment see enclosure 3 [Note: enclosure 3 is not in evidence for review.] They do not consider it feasible or appropriate to accomplish other disposition as the applicant's potential for advancement or leadership is highly unlikely. Further attempts at rehabilitation would not produce a quality Soldier. The applicant's conduct is such that their retention will have an adverse impact on military discipline, good order, and morale. The applicant is not currently undergoing a Medical Evaluation Board. The separation does not involve a medical condition that is related to the sexual assault, to include PTSD. The separation is in the best interest of both the Army and the applicant.

- (8) A memorandum, Headquarters, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) subject: Separation under Army Regulation 635-200, Chapter 14-12b, A Pattern of Misconduct, [Applicant], dated 18 February 2021, the separation authority reviewed the separation packet of the applicant and after careful consideration of all matters, directed the applicant be separated from the Army prior to the expiration of their current term of service. The separation authority directed the applicant's service be characterized as General (Under Honorable Conditions). After reviewing the rehabilitative transfer requirements, they determined the requirements were completed prior to initiation of this separation.
- **(9)** A DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) reflects the applicant was discharged on 2 March 2021, with 1 year, 5 months, and 29 days of net active service this period. The DD Form 214 shows in
  - item 4a (Grade, Rate or Rank) Private
  - item 4b (Pay Grade) E-1
  - item 12i (Effective Date of Pay Grade) 24 August 2020
  - item 18 (Remarks) in part, MEMBER HAS NOT COMPLETED FIRST FULL TERM OF SERVICE
  - item 24 (Character of Service) General (Under Honorable Conditions)
  - item 25 (Separation Authority) Army Regulation 635-200, Paragraph 14-12B
  - item 26 (Separation Code) JKA
  - item 27 (Reentry Code) 3
  - item 28 (Narrative Reason for Separation) Pattern of Misconduct
- (10) An Enlisted Record Brief, dated 3 March 2021, reflects the applicant was advanced to the rank/grade of private/E-2 on 4 March 2020 and reduced to private/E-1 on 24 August 2020.
  - i. Lost Time / Mode of Return: None
  - j. Behavioral Health Condition(s):
- **(1) Applicant provided:** VA medical evidence reflects service connection/rated disabilities for PTSD rated at 100-percent.
  - (2) AMHRR Listed: None

#### 5. APPLICANT-PROVIDED EVIDENCE:

- DD Forms 293 (Application for the Review of Discharge from the Armed Forces of the United States)
- Email Exchange regarding applicant
- Senator Privacy Release Form
- DD Form 214
- Durable Power of Attorney
- VA Letter Certifies Service-Connected Disability Compensation
- Medical Record Supplemental Medical Data
- Patient Education Concussion Discharge Instructions
- DD Form 689 (Individual Sick Slip)
- Display Patient Appointment
- VA Medical Evidence
- **6. Post Service Accomplishments:** None submitted with the 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 Department of Veterans Affairs (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 Instruction 1332.28.
- **d.** Army Regulation 635-200 (Active Duty Enlisted Administrative Separations), dated 19 December 2016, 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 1 (General Provisions) sets policies, standards, and procedures to ensure readiness and competency of the force while providing for the orderly administrative separation of Soldiers, it provides in pertinent part:
- (a) When a separation is ordered, the approved proceedings will be sent to the commander who has the Soldier's records for separation processing. The original copy of the proceedings will be filed in the permanent part of the Soldiers official personnel record.
- **(b)** Army leaders at all levels must be continually aware of their obligation to provide purpose, direction, and motivation to Soldiers. It is essential that Soldiers who falter, but have the potential to serve honorably and well, be given every opportunity to succeed. Except as otherwise indicated, commanders must make maximum use of counseling and rehabilitation before determining that a Soldier has no potential for further useful service and ensure it occurs prior to initiating separation proceedings for reason to include Minor Disciplinary Infractions (14-12a) or a Pattern of Misconduct (14-12b).
- (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. Paragraph 14-12b (Pattern of Misconduct), stated, a pattern of misconduct consisting of one of the following discreditable involvement with civil 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 UCMJ, Army regulations, the civil law, and time-honored customs and traditions of the Army.

- **(6)** Paragraph 14-3 (Characterization of Service or Description of Separation) prescribed 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.
- (7) 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 "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).
- **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 DoD 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 (2019 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 the following Article 86 (Failing to go, going from place of duty).
- **h**. Title 38, U.S. Code, Sections 1110 and 1131, permits the VA to award compensation for a medical condition which was incurred in or aggravated by active military service. The VA,

however, is not required by law to determine medical unfitness for further military service. The VA, in accordance with its own policies and regulations, awards compensation solely on the basis that a medical condition exists and that said medical condition reduces or impairs the social or industrial adaptability of the individual concerned. Consequently, due to the two concepts involved, an individual's medical condition, although not considered medically unfitting for military service at the time of processing for separation, discharge, or retirement, may be sufficient to qualify the individual for VA benefits based on an evaluation by the agency.

#### 8. SUMMARY OF FACT(S):

- **a.** The Army Discharge Review Board considers applications for upgrade as instructed by DoD Instruction 1332.28.
- **b.** A review of the available evidence provides received multiple occurrences of event oriented counseling for misconduct, to include failure to report and failure to maintain equipment and tidiness of barracks living quarters and was involuntarily separated. The applicant's DD Form 214 indicates their discharge under the provisions of Army Regulation 635-200, Chapter 14, paragraph 14-12b (Pattern of Misconduct) with a character of service of general (under honorable conditions). They completed 1 year, 5 months, and 29 days of net active service; however, they did not complete their first full term of service of their 3-year, 36-week contractual enlistment obligation.
- **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 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 reflects no documentation of a diagnosis for PTSD or TBI during the applicant's military service. The applicant provided a VA medical evidence reflecting service connection/rated disabilities for PTSD rated at 100-percent and TBI rated at 0-percent.
- **e.** Published DoD 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: TBI, PTSD (100%SC). [Note: Anxiety DO NOS and Adjustment DO with depressed mood are both subsumed under the diagnosis of PTSD.]

- **(2)** Did the condition exist, or experience occur during military service? **Yes.** The Board's Medical Advisor found that TBI was diagnosed during service. VA service connection for PTSD establishes nexus with military 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 two mitigating BH conditions, TBI and PTSD. As there is an association between TBI, PTSD, avoidant behaviors and lack of motivation and energy, there is a nexus between his diagnoses of TBI, PTSD, his multiple FTRs and his failure to obey an order to keep his room and military equipment clean and in order.
- (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 outweighed the basis of separation.
  - b. Prior Decisions Cited: N/A
  - **c.** Response to Contention(s):
- (1) The applicant contends they sustained a TBI during a training exercise and was medically evacuated. The Board determined that this contention was valid and voted to upgrade the characterization of service due to TBI and PTSD mitigating the applicant's multiple FTRs and failure to obey orders.
- (2) The applicant contends they were denied a Medical Evaluation Board (MEB) and received reprisal. They received nonjudicial punishment under the provisions of Article 15, UCMJ for failure to report. The Board considered this contention during proceedings, but ultimately did not address the contention due to an upgrade being granted based on the applicant's TBI and PTSD mitigating the applicant's multiple FTRs and failure to obey orders.
- (3) The applicant contends they have suffered a permanent TBI and have also documented heat stroke which prevented them from doing their job. Their TBI is compounded and service connected with the VA. The Board determined that this contention was valid and voted to upgrade the characterization of service due to TBI and PTSD mitigating the applicant's multiple FTRs and failure to obey orders.
- (4) The applicant contends they have since become a homeless Veteran and have been hospitalized for suicide attempts. The Board considered this contention during deliberations and determined that eligibility for Veteran's benefits, to include educational benefits under the Post-9/11 or Montgomery GI Bill, healthcare or VA loans, do 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.
- (5) The applicant contends they receive VA disability compensation for a combined rating of 100-percent due to service connected injuries, to include PTSD. The Board determined that this contention was valid and voted to upgrade the characterization of service due to TBI and PTSD mitigating the applicant's multiple FTRs and failure to obey orders.
- **d.** The Board determined the discharge is inequitable based on the applicant's circumstances surrounding the discharge (TBI and PTSD diagnoses). Therefore, the Board voted to grant relief in the form of an upgrade of the characterization of service to Honorable and changed the separation authority to AR 635-200, paragraph 14-12a, the narrative reason for separation to Misconduct (Minor Infractions), with a corresponding separation code of JKN.

The Board determined the reentry code of RE-3 is proper and equitable and voted not to change it.

#### e. Rationale for Decision:

- (1) The Board voted to change the applicant's characterization of service. Based on a preponderance of evidence, the Board determined the discharge is inequitable based on the applicant's circumstances surrounding the discharge (TBI and PTSD diagnoses). Therefore, the Board voted to grant relief in the form of an upgrade of the characterization of service to Honorable and changed the separation authority to AR 635-200, paragraph 14-12a.
- (2) The Board voted to change the narrative reason for separation to Misconduct (Minor Infractions), under the same rationale, therefore the reason for discharge is no longer appropriate. The corresponding separation code associated with the new reason for discharge is JKN.
- (3) The RE code of RE-3 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: AR 635-200

#### **Authenticating Official:**



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

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