

1. Applicant's Name: [REDACTED]**a. Application Date:** 3 February 2022**b. Date Received:** 3 February 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 upgrade to honorable, an RE code change, and a narrative reason change.

b. Applicant Contention(s)/Issue(s): The applicant requests relief contending, in effect, suffering from PTSD, anxiety, and depression with suicidal ideations at the time of discharge. The applicant was victim to an abusive relationship, landing them in the hospital. The applicant enlisted into the Regular Army to evade the living situation. Upon getting stationed overseas, the applicant turned to alcohol to cope with the symptoms. The applicant received a DUI charge which led the applicant to seek mental health care with a Psychologist following the discharge. The applicant then attended an in-patient rehab facility and has been sober for 5071 days at the time of the submission.

c. Board Type and Decision: In a records review conducted on 18 December 2025, and by a 3-0 vote. The Board voted to grant Clemency relief in the form of an upgrade to the characterization of service to Honorable and directed the issue of a new DD Form 214 changing the separation authority to AR 635-200, paragraph 14-12a, the narrative reason for separation to Misconduct (Minor Infractions), and the separation code to JKN. The Board determined the RE Code was proper and equitable and voted not to change 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: Alcohol Rehabilitation Failure / AR 635-200, Chapter 9 / JPD / RE-4 / General (Under Honorable Conditions)

b. Date of Discharge: 27 February 2008**c. Separation Facts:**

(1) Date of Notification of Intent to Separate: 12 December 2007

(2) Basis for Separation: The applicant was informed of the following reasons: failed to successfully complete the Army Substance Abuse Program (ASAP), therefore, as per AR 635-200, paragraph 9-2 c, separation must be initiated.

(3) Recommended Characterization: Honorable

(4) Legal Consultation Date: 21 December 2007

(5) Administrative Separation Board: NA

(6) Separation Decision Date / Characterization: 11 February 2008 / General
(Under Honorable Conditions)

4. SERVICE DETAILS:

a. Date / Period of Enlistment Under Review: 25 May 2007 / 3 years

b. Age at Enlistment / Education / GT Score: 18/ High School Graduate / 98

c. Highest Grade Achieved / MOS / Total Service: E-4 / 92A1O, Automated Logistical Specialist / 2 years, 4 months, 5 days

d. Prior Service / Characterizations: ARNGUS, 21 January 2005 – 17 April 2006 / HD
(Concurrent Service)
IADT, 18 April 2006 – 27 July 2006 / UNC
ARNGUS, 28 July 2006 – 24 May 2007 / HD

e. Overseas Service / Combat Service: Germany / None

f. Awards and Decorations: NDSM, GWOTSM, ASR

g. Performance Ratings: NA

h. Disciplinary Action(s) / Evidentiary Record:

(1) Two Developmental Counseling Forms document instances of the applicant failing to be at proper place of duty / destruction of military property, Article 134, on 22 and 23 October 2007.

(2) Army Substance Abuse Program (ASAP) Synopsis Letter, 26 October 2007, reflects the applicant was screened on 7 August 2007 secondary to getting drunk on both 4 and 5 August and admitting to being pregnant. The applicant admitted to consuming five to six mixed drinks, 3 times per week over the last 12 months. The applicant also disclosed excessive consumption, arguments, damaged relationships, all-day intoxication, and drinking despite the negative consequences. Upon receiving a completion certificate, it was reported the applicant continued to drink. The applicant's command helped with reenrollment on 23 October 2007. The applicant reported being confronted by another Soldier and jumped out of a second deck window to get away. The applicant did not disclose the involvement of alcohol at the time of the incident. The applicant and First Sergeant both classified the relapse as a failure to treatment.

i. Lost Time / Mode of Return: None

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

(1) Applicant provided: None

(2) AMHRR Listed: Report of Mental Status Evaluation (MSE), 7 November 2007, indicates the applicant was cleared for any administrative actions the command deemed appropriate. The applicant demonstrated the ability to understand and participate in administrative proceedings, appreciated the difference between right and wrong, and met medical retention requirements. PTSD and mTBI screenings were conducted, but the conditions

were either absent or did not meet AR 40-501 criteria for a medical evaluation board. The command was advised to consider their influence. The applicant was diagnosed with Alcohol Abuse. The applicant was not found to have any other mental health issues that would preclude undergoing an administrative separation.

5. APPLICANT-PROVIDED EVIDENCE: Online application, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, Certificates Of Completion For Rehabilitation, College Transcripts.

6. POST SERVICE ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Remained sober for 5071 days at time of application submission, obtained a degree, and had two children.

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 waiverable. 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 (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 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.

(a) 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.

(b) 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.

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

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

h. Army Regulation 635-5-1 (Separation Program Designator (SPD) Codes), provides the specific authorities (regulatory or directive), reasons for separating Soldiers from active duty, and the SPD codes to be entered on the DD Form 214. It identifies the SPD code of "JPD" as the appropriate code to assign enlisted Soldiers who are discharged under the provisions of Army Regulation 635-200, Chapter 9, for 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, RE code change, and a narrative reason change. 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 with the intent to separate on 12 December 2007 for failing to successfully complete the ASAP. The applicant was recommended for an honorable characterization of service. The applicant met with counsel on 21 December 2007. The

applicant underwent an MSE on 7 November 2007 and was found have a diagnosis of Alcohol Abuse. No other diagnoses were found. The separation authority considered the MSE and directed a general (under honorable conditions) on 11 February 2008.

c. The applicant contends the Army should change the narrative reason. The applicant was separated under the provisions of Chapter 9, AR 635-200 with a general (under honorable conditions) discharge. The narrative reason specified by Army Regulations for a discharge under this paragraph is "alcohol rehabilitation failure," and the separation code is "JPD." Army Regulation 635-8 (Separation Processing and Documents), governs preparation of the DD Form 214, and dictates the entry of the narrative reason for separation, entered in block 28 and 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 reason to be entered under this regulation

d. The applicant contends suffering from PTSD, Anxiety, and Depression while not knowing. The applicant contends upbringing and an abusive relationship in Oklahoma were the source for the symptoms. The applicant used alcohol to cope with the untreated conditions. The applicant was diagnosed post service The applicant also admits to an arrest for Driving Under the Influence upon returning from Germany, post service.

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: Self-asserted PTSD, Anxiety, Depression, and SI.

(2) Did the condition exist or experience occur during military service? **Yes.** The Board's Medical Advisor found the applicant self-asserted experiencing PTSD, Anxiety, Depression, and SI during her TIS.

(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 asserts her misconduct was related to PTSD, anxiety, depression, and SI. However, a view of the available information was void of any evidence the applicant was diagnosed with or treated for either of those conditions during or after service. The available medical evidence reflects the applicant was diagnosed and treated for Alcohol Abuse during service. However, in absence of a non-substance-use-related comorbid BH condition, Alcohol Abuse is not afforded relief under liberal consideration. The applicant provided no documentation supportive of a post-service BH diagnosis or treatment history. In absence of medical documentation supporting her assertion, there is insufficient evidence to establish her misconduct was related to or mitigated by a BH condition and insufficient evidence to support an upgrade based on medical mitigation.

(4) Does the condition or experience outweigh the discharge? **No.** Despite the Board's application of liberal consideration, the Board considered the opinion of the Board's Medical Advisor, a voting member, that the available evidence did not support a conclusion that the applicant's PTSD, anxiety, depression, and SI outweighed the unmitigated offenses for the aforementioned reason(s).

b. Prior Decisions Cited: N/A

c. Response to Contention(s): The applicant contends the Army should change the narrative reason and the applicant contends suffering from PTSD, Anxiety, and Depression while not knowing. The Board reviewed this contention and, based on the applicant's length of service and post-service accomplishments, which outweighed the applicant's ASAP failure, granted clemency by upgrading the characterization of service to Honorable.

d. The Board determined the discharge is inequitable based on the applicant's length of service and post service accomplishments outweighed the applicant's ASAP Failure as a basis of Separation. Therefore, the Board voted to grant Clemency relief in the form of an upgrade to the characterization of service to Honorable and directed the issue of a new DD Form 214 changing the separation authority to AR 635-200, paragraph 14-12a, the narrative reason for separation to Misconduct (Minor Infractions), and the separation code to JKN. The Board determined the RE Code was proper and equitable and voted not to change it.

e. Rationale for Decision:

(1) Published Department of Defense guidance indicates the guidance is not intended to interfere or impede on the Board's statutory independence. The Board determines the relative weight of the action that was the basis for the discharge and whether it supports relief or not. In reaching its determination, the Board considers the application, available records and any supporting documents included with the application.

(2) The Board voted to grant Clemency relief in the form of an upgrade to the characterization of service to Honorable and directed the issue of a new DD Form 214 changing the separation authority to AR 635-200, paragraph 14-12a, the narrative reason for separation to Misconduct (Minor Infractions), and the separation 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.

ARMY DISCHARGE REVIEW BOARD CASE REPORT AND DIRECTIVE

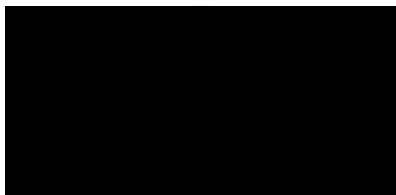
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10. BOARD ACTION DIRECTED:

- 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, paragraph 14-12a

Authenticating Official:

1/30/2026



Legend:

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

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

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

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