

1. Applicant's Name: [REDACTED]

a. Application Date: 15 February 2022

b. Date Received: 15 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 an upgrade to honorable and a narrative reason change.

b. Applicant Contention(s)/Issue(s): The applicant requests relief contending, their discharge resulted from a SHARP-related incident which occurred in June 2018.

(1) The applicant stated they were drugged and sexually assaulted after attending a fellow Soldier's birthday dinner. The following morning, they awoke naked and late for the Commanding General's briefing—an unusual occurrence given their exemplary performance as the Command Sergeant Major's Executive Administrative Assistant. Despite reporting the assault to their squad leader and filing a SHARP complaint, the applicant submitted to a "random" urinalysis and later tested positive on a urinalysis for illegal drug use. They were reduced in rank from sergeant to specialist and discharged under honorable conditions (general).

(2) The applicant maintained they served honorably, consistently demonstrated Army Values, and was failed by their chain of command. Veterans Affairs later acknowledged the SHARP incident and granted disability benefits related to it. Since separation, the applicant has rebuilt their life through community service, working in the nonprofit sector to feed the homeless and advocate for LGBTQ+ issues, earning recognition from their state's governor and senators. They continued to receive partial VA and educational benefits, but the existing discharge reason citing "misconduct (drug abuse)" prevent them from reaching their fullest potential. The applicant asserts their service, both in uniform and in the community, was honorable and requests their discharge be corrected to reflect their distinction.

c. Board Type and Decision: In a records review conducted on 20 January 2026, and by a 3-0 vote, the Board determined the discharge is inequitable based on the applicant's length and quality of service, the circumstances surrounding the discharge (PTSD diagnoses), and post-service accomplishments. 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, Chapter 15, and the narrative reason for separation to Secretarial Authority, with a corresponding separation code to JFF, and a change to the reentry eligibility (RE) code to 3. 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: Misconduct (Drug Abuse) / AR 635-200, Chapter 14-12c (2) / JKK / RE-4 / General (Under Honorable Conditions)

b. Date of Discharge: 7 February 2019

c. Separation Facts:

(1) Date of Notification of Intent to Separate: NIF

(2) Basis for Separation: On or between 13 and 20 July, the applicant wrongfully used cocaine, as stated on their nonjudicial punishment proceedings.

(3) Recommended Characterization: NIF

(4) Legal Consultation Date: NIF

(5) Administrative Separation Board: NIF

(6) Separation Decision Date / Characterization: 19 January 2019 / General (Under Honorable Conditions)

4. SERVICE DETAILS:

a. Date / Period of First Reenlistment Under Review: 18 February 2016 / 5 years

b. Age at Enlistment / Education / GT Score: 25 / High School Diploma / 108

c. Highest Grade Achieved / MOS / Total Service: E-5 / 42A10 E3 Human Resources Specialist / 5 years, 8 months, 18 days

d. Prior Service / Characterizations: Regular Army, 20 May 2013 – 17 February 2016 / Honorable

e. Overseas Service / Combat Service: Korea (11 months, 24 days); Italy (2 years, 3 months, 21 days) / None

f. Awards and Decorations: ARCOM, AAM-3, JMUA, AGCM, NDSM, GWOTSM, KDMS, NCOPDR, ASR, OSR-2

g. Performance Ratings: Sergeant, 1 February – 14 September 2018 / Qualified

h. Disciplinary Action(s) / Evidentiary Record: The Enlisted Record Brief provides the applicant was flagged (Suspend Favorable Personnel Actions (FLAG)) on 20 August 2018, for drug abuse adverse action (UA); and on 6 September 2018, for field initiated involuntary separation (BA).

(1) On 20 August 2018, the Army Substance Abuse Program (ASAP) Coordinator, informed the command of the applicant's positive urinalysis for wrongful use of cocaine and provided the required actions such as to refer the Soldier to the Substance Use Disorder Clinical Care (SUDCC) for an evaluation/assessment within five duty days, initiating a FLAG, such as notifying local CID (Criminal Investigation Division), and to comply with administrative guidance under AR 635-200. A CID report, dated 24 August 2018, reflects the applicant was advised of their rights, which they invoked, and requested legal counsel.

(a) A self-authored memorandum for record, dated 19 November 2018, provides the applicant stated they were unknowingly, drugged and immediately reported the incident, maintaining integrity and accountability throughout. They emphasized their proven leadership,

discipline, and dedication to the Army, highlighted numerous awards, mentorship roles, and aspirations to continue serving honorable as a Drill Sergeant or in Public Affairs.

(b) On 26 November 2018, the applicant received nonjudicial punishment for wrongful use of cocaine on or between 13 and 20 July 2018, in violation of Article 112a, UCMJ (wrongful use of schedule II controlled substance). The applicant did appeal and submit matters on their behalf which was ultimately denied (6 December). Their punishment imposed a reduction to Specialist (E-4); suspended forfeitures of \$1,245.00 pay per month for two months, automatically remitted if not vacated in six months; and 15 days of restriction, suspended, automatically remitted if not vacated in two months.

(2) On 11 December 2018, the battalion commander's recommendation was to retain the applicant and noted "see attached MFR." However, the MFR was not present in the record.

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 Veterans Affairs Rating Decision, effective 8 February 2019, provides the applicant was granted a 70% service-connected disability rating for Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). A Victim Reporting Preference Statement, dated 19 November 2018, provides the applicant formally chose Restricted Reporting, allowing them to receive confidential care, advocacy, and counseling without triggering a formal investigation or command notification. They acknowledged understanding their rights, the limits of confidentiality, and they could later convert the report to Unrestricted.

(2) **AMHRR provided:** On 19 November 2018, the Substance Use Disorder Clinical Care (SUDCC) Supervisory Social Worker provided a memorandum identifying the applicant was referred to the clinic on 22 August 2018 from a Unit Drug Screen for cocaine. A psychosocial assessment was conducted on 28 August and the applicant did NOT meet diagnostic criteria for a substance use disorder and enrollment into outpatient services was NOT recommended. The applicant was to participate in the two-day class, *Prime for Life*, 20-21 November 2018. This was an evidence-based practice for early intervention and prevention of substance abuse. The applicant's command leadership agreed with the recommendation, with an added follow-up individual session at the conclusion of the class.

5. APPLICANT-PROVIDED EVIDENCE: ACTS Application for the Review of Discharge; Five Character Letters; Victim Reporting Preference Statement; Veterans Affairs Rating Decision and Summary of Benefits Letter; The Senate and General Assembly Award and Recognition Letter

6. POST SERVICE ACCOMPLISHMENTS: The applicant has rebuilt their life through community service, working in the nonprofit sector to feed the homeless and advocate for LGBTQ+ issues, earning recognition from their state's governor and senators. They have continued to receive partial VA and educational benefits.

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 600-85 (Army Substance Abuse Program (ASAP)) provided a comprehensive alcohol and drug abuse prevention and control policies, procedures, and responsibilities for Soldiers for ASAP services. The ASAP is a command program that emphasizes readiness and personal responsibility. The ultimate decision regarding separation or retention of abusers is the responsibility of the Soldier's chain of command. Abuse of alcohol or the use of illicit drugs by military personnel is inconsistent with Army values and the standards of performance, discipline, and readiness necessary to accomplish the Army's mission. All Soldiers who are identified as drug abusers, without exception, will be referred to the ASAP counseling center for screening; be considered for disciplinary action under the UCMJ, as appropriate; and be processed for administrative separation in accordance with Army Regulation 635-200.

(1) Unit commanders must intervene early and refer all Soldiers suspected or identified as alcohol and/or drug abusers to the ASAP. The unit commander should recommend enrollment based on the Soldier's potential for continued military service in terms of professional skills, behavior, and potential for advancement. ASAP participation is mandatory for all Soldiers who are command referred. Failure to attend a mandatory counseling session may constitute a violation of Article 86 (Absence Without Leave) of the UCMJ.

(2) Alcohol and/or other drug abusers, and in some cases dependent alcohol users, may be enrolled in the ASAP when such enrollment is clinically recommended. Soldiers who fail to participate adequately in, or to respond successfully to, rehabilitation will be processed for administrative separation and not be provided another opportunity for rehabilitation except under the most extraordinary circumstances, as determined by the Clinical Director in consultation with the unit commander.

(3) Alcohol and/or other drug abusers, and in some cases dependent alcohol users, may be enrolled in the ASAP when such enrollment is clinically recommended. Soldiers who fail to participate adequately in, or to respond successfully to, rehabilitation will be processed for administrative separation and not be provided another opportunity for rehabilitation except under the most extraordinary circumstances, as determined by the Clinical Director in consultation with the unit commander.

(4) All Soldiers who are identified as drug abusers, without exception, will be referred to the ASAP counseling center for screening; be considered for disciplinary action under the UCMJ, as appropriate; and be processed for administrative separation in accordance with Army Regulation 635-200.

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:

(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. Army Regulation 635-200 provides the basic authority for the separation of enlisted personnel.

(1) Chapter 3, Section II provides the authorized types of characterization of service or description of separation. It states:

(a) An honorable discharge is a separation with honor and is appropriate when the quality of the Soldier's service generally has met the standards of acceptable conduct and performance of duty for Army personnel or is otherwise so meritorious that any other characterization would be clearly inappropriate.

(b) A general discharge is a separation from the Army under honorable conditions and is issued to a Soldier whose military record is satisfactory but not sufficiently meritorious to warrant an honorable discharge.

(c) An under other-than-honorable-conditions discharge is an administrative separation from the Service under conditions other than honorable and it may be issued for misconduct, fraudulent entry, security reasons, or in lieu of trial by court martial based on certain circumstances or patterns of behavior or acts or omissions that constitute a significant departure from the conduct expected of Soldiers in the Army.

(d) A Bad Conduct discharge will only be given to a Soldier pursuant to an approved sentence of general or special court-martial. Enlisted service members and officers with less than six years of service are eligible for a Bad Conduct Discharge. Behaviors such as drug abuse, assault, theft, insubordination, and other actions that violate military law may be punished with a BCD.

(e) A Dishonorable discharge is the most severe type of discharge and will be given to a Soldier pursuant only to an approved sentence of general or special court-martial. The appellate review must be completed and affirmed sentence ordered duly executed. Behaviors such as fraud, desertion, treason, espionage, sexual Assault, and murder and other actions may be punished with a dishonorable discharge.

(f) An uncharacterized separation will be described as entry-level with service uncharacterized if processing is initiated while a Soldier is in entry-level status. Unless the DCS,

G-1, on a case-by-case basis, determines that characterization of service as honorable is clearly warranted by the presence of unusual circumstances involving personal conduct and performance of duty. This characterization is authorized 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 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. 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. 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. Paragraph 14-12c (2) terms abuse of illegal drugs as serious misconduct. It continues; however, by recognizing relevant facts may mitigate the nature of the offense. Therefore, a single drug abuse offense may be combined with one or more minor disciplinary infractions or incidents of other misconduct and processed for separation under paragraph 14-12a or 14-12b as appropriate.

(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, it will 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 "JKK" as the appropriate code to assign enlisted Soldiers who are discharged under the provisions of Army Regulation 635-200, Chapter 14-12c (2), misconduct (drug abuse).

i. Manual for Courts-Martial (2008 Edition), United States, states 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 orders and discipline in the Armed Forces. **Article 112a** (wrongful use of schedule II controlled substance) states in

the subparagraph, the maximum punishment consists of dishonorable discharge, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, and confinement for 5 years.

j. 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): 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 and a narrative reason change. A review of the records provides administrative irregularity in the proper retention of official military records, specifically, the partial separation package and separation exams.

(1) An authenticated DD Form 214 provides the applicant was discharged under the provisions of AR 635-200, Chapter 14-12c (2) for misconduct (drug abuse) with a general (under honorable conditions) characterization of service. The applicant was flagged for involuntary separation and in November 2018 received NJP for wrongful use of cocaine, in violation of Article 112a, UCMJ (wrongful use of schedule II controlled substance) and was reduced to specialist. Although the battalion commander recommended retention, the separation authority directed discharge. They served 2 years, 11 months, and 20 days of a 5-year reenlistment contractual obligation.

(2) The applicant seeks relief contending their discharge stemmed from a SHARP-related assault in 2018 after being drugged and sexually assaulted. Despite honorable service as the Command Sergeant Major's Executive Assistant, they were discharged for alleged drug use following the incident. Veterans Affairs later substantiated the assault and granted benefits. Since separation, the applicant has rebuilt their life through had advocacy and community service and seeks correction of their record to accurately reflect honorable service.

(3) In November 2018, a SUDCC memorandum confirmed the applicant's referral after a unit drug screen for cocaine. A psychosocial evaluation determined the applicant did NOT meet diagnostic criteria for a substance use disorder, and outpatient treatment was not recommended. Instead, the applicant was scheduled to attend the two-day *Prime for Life* early-intervention course, followed by a single individual session as agreed upon by command leadership. A VA Rating Decision, effective 8 February 2019, indicates the applicant receives a 70% service-connected disability rating for PTSD.

b. 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.

c. Published Department of Defense 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: PTSD and MST.

(2) Did the condition exist, or experience occur during military service? **Yes.** The MST event leading to the applicant's PTSD occurred while in 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 all available documentation aligns with the applicant's self-report that the positive UA was secondary to being drugged. There are no substance issues prior to, or afterward, nor are there any other positive UAs to suggest a pattern or habit. Moreover, the applicant is currently service connected for the drugging event as they have since elaborated, they were sexually assaulted while drugged.

Does the condition or experience outweigh the discharge? **Yes.** After applying liberal consideration to the evidence, including the Board Medical Advisor's opinion, the Board determined that the applicant's PTSD outweighed the one-time positive UA for cocaine.

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

c. Response to Contention(s): The applicant seeks relief contending their discharge stemmed from a SHARP-related assault in 2018 after being drugged and sexually assaulted. Despite honorable service as the Command Sergeant Major's Executive Assistant, they were discharged for alleged drug use following the incident. Veterans Affairs later substantiated the assault and granted benefits. Since separation, the applicant has rebuilt their life through advocacy and community service and seeks correction of their record to accurately reflect honorable service. In support, former senior leadership and colleagues described the applicant as an exemplary NCO (disciplined, ethical, and highly competent) whose leadership, intellect, and professionalism set them apart. They consistently recommended the applicant's retention, emphasizing their technical skill, and dedication to Soldiers and Army Values. Additionally, their Legislature honored the applicant's character, leadership, and public service, extending best wishes for their continued success.

d. The Board determined: The medical advisor determined the applicant suffered an in-service MST, which was 70 percent service-connected for PTSD/MST by the VA. The applicant claims they were drugged which led to the positive UA for cocaine for which they were discharged; therefore, applying liberal consideration, the medical advisor determined there was

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medical mitigation for the one-time failed UA. There was no other history of drug use identified by the medical advisor. The Board concurred with the medical advisor's suggestion and, considering the applicant has length, quality and two overseas tours as well as post-service accomplishments, an upgrade was granted.

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 change the applicant's characterization of service to Honorable because the applicant's Post Traumatic Stress Disorder outweighed the applicant's misconduct of cocaine abuse. Thus, the prior characterization is no longer appropriate.

(3) The Board voted to change the reason for discharge to Secretarial Authority under the same pretexts, thus the reason for discharge is no longer appropriate. The SPD code associated with the new reason for discharge is JFF.

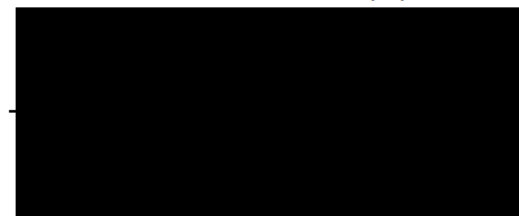
(4) The RE code will change to Re 3.

10. BOARD ACTION DIRECTED:

- a. Issue a New DD-214 / Separation Order: Yes**
- b. Change Characterization to: Honorable**
- c. Change Reason / SPD code to: Secretarial Authority / JFF**
- d. Change RE Code to: Re 3**
- e. Change Authority to: AR 635-200, Chapter 15**

Authenticating Official:

1/28/2026



Legend:

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

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

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

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