

1. Applicant's Name: [REDACTED]

- a. **Application Date:** 8 March 2021
- b. **Date Received:** 1 November 2021
- c. **Counsel:** None

2. REQUEST, ISSUES, BOARD TYPE, AND DECISION:

a. **Applicant's Requests and Issues:** The current characterization of service for the period under review is General (Under Honorable Conditions). The applicant requests an upgrade to Honorable and a separation code change.

b. The applicant seeks relief contending, they made mistakes in the past and have learned a lot from them. They suffer from Anxiety and Depression and this has hindered them but they will not allow this to stop them. They are seeking understanding in the matter that took place while they were actively serving. They have made the necessary changes in their life and currently, takes medication for their disorder. They are a very responsible young person with a vision and has a family that they adore and love with every ounce of their soul. Their family has endured so much, as many others have and when faced with hardships, let the situation stand in the way of their better judgement. They are unable to change the past but can ensure not to do so in the future as they are a changed person. It is their hope that the Board sees what their character reference sees in them and give the opportunity of an upgrade to Honorable.

c. **Board Type and Decision:** In a records review conducted on 22 October 2025, and by a 3-0 vote, the Board determined the discharge is inequitable based on the applicant's Bipolar Disorder mitigating the applicant's one-time marijuana use. Therefore, the Board voted to grant relief in the form of an upgrade of the characterization of service to Honorable and changed to 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.

*Please see **Board Discussion and Determination** section for more detail regarding the Board's decision.*

(Board member names 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:** 6 April 2020

c. Separation Facts:

(1) **Date of Notification of Intent to Separate:** 19 February 2020

(2) **Basis for Separation:** Between 30 June – 30 July 2019, they wrongfully used marijuana.

(3) **Recommended Characterization:** General (Under Honorable Conditions)

(4) **Legal Consultation Date:** 19 February 2020

(5) Administrative Separation Board: NA

(6) Separation Decision Date / Characterization: 18 March 2020 / General (Under Honorable Conditions)

4. SERVICE DETAILS:

a. Date / Period of Enlistment: 14 March 2017 / 4 years

b. Age at Enlistment / Education / GT Score: 22 / Some College / 108

c. Highest Grade Achieved / MOS / Total Service: E-4 (SPC) / 25U10 Signal Operations Support Specialist / 3 years and 23 days

d. Prior Service / Characterizations: None

e. Overseas Service / Combat Service: Korea / None / 11 months, 29 days

f. Awards and Decorations:

- National Defense Service Medal
- Global War on Terrorism Service Medal
- Korea Defense Service Medal
- Army Service Ribbon
- Sharpshooter Marksmanship Badge w/Rifle Bar

g. Performance Ratings: NA

h. Disciplinary Action(s) / Evidentiary Record: On 14 March 2017, the applicant enlisted in the Regular Army for 4 years as a private second class, PV2 (E-2). The Enlisted Record Brief provides on 1 December 2017, they were promoted to private first class, PFC (E-3) and on 14 March 2019, to specialist, SPC (E-4). On 20 August and 5 November 2019, the applicant was flagged, Suspend Favorable Personnel Actions (FLAG), for drug abuse adverse action (UA) and adverse action (AA). On 17 September 2019, the applicant accepted nonjudicial punishment in violation of Article 112a, UCMJ, for wrongful use of marijuana on or between 30 June – 30 July 2019. They did not appeal. The punishment imposed a reduction to private, PVT (E-1) and extra duty for 45 days.

(1) On 19 February 2020, the company commander notified the applicant of their intent to initiate separation proceedings under the provisions of AR 635-200, Chapter 14-12c(2), Misconduct (Drug Abuse), for wrongful use of marijuana on or between 30 June – 30 July 2019 and recommended a General (Under Honorable Conditions) characterization of service, in which the battalion and brigade commander concurred with. The applicant acknowledged receipt of their separation notice, elected to consult with legal, and elected to provide a statement on their behalf. Defense counsel advised them on the possible effects of their separation and rights available to them.

(2) On 18 March 2020, the separation authority approved the discharge with a General (Under Honorable Conditions) characterization of service. On 24 March 2020, the separation orders were issued and a DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) reflects that the applicant was discharged accordingly on 6 April 2020, with 3 years, 4 months, and 28 days of total service. The applicant provided an electronic signature and had not

completed the first full term of service.

i. Lost Time / Mode of Return: None

j. Behavioral Health Condition(s): Bipolar Disorder, Unspecified; Bipolar Disorder, with Cannabis Use Disorder (also claimed Anxiety Condition, Depression)

(1) Applicant provided: A Veterans Affairs Summary of Benefits Letter, dated 27 October 2021, provides the applicant has been awarded 50% service-connected disability rating for Bipolar Disorder with Cannabis Use Disorder (also claimed Anxiety Condition, Depression).

(2) AMHRR Listed: On 24 September 2019, they completed separation physical at Fort Drum Medical Department Activity (MEDDAC), NY and the examiner found them unqualified for service due to a diagnosis of Bipolar Disorder, Unspecified. On 2 October 2019, the BH provider with Embedded Behavioral Health (EBH) confirmed the diagnosis and recommended the applicant to follow-up as already scheduled. A Medical Evaluation Board Proceedings, dated 6 November 2019, indicates that they did not meet retention standards and referred their case to a Physical Evaluation Board. The applicant concurred with the decision; however, on a Disability Evaluation System (DES) Commander's Performance and Functional Statement, the company commander stated the command unaware of any medical conditions and found it "extremely convenient that [the applicant] to experience adverse effects and reports same to [BH] on 31 July 2019, the day after [they] took a urinalysis that [they] knew [they] would test positive for THC on."

5. APPLICANT-PROVIDED EVIDENCE: Application for the Review of Discharge; Self-Authored Statement; Veterans Affairs Rating Decision; Four Character Letters provide the following:

a. The Assistant Dean contends, the applicant has shown themselves to be a very responsible and positive young person who consistently demonstrated strong moral values, sense of family, and work ethic.

b. The Financial Aid Counselor contends, the young person they have become is the direct results of their morals, values, and all-around exceptional character who is deserving of an Honorable discharge on their record because of the person of honor, strength, and integrity.

c. Their Wellness Coach contends, they have watched the applicant evolve into an awesome, responsible young person who is wise beyond their years, logical, and forthright with a positive attitude. The applicant has demonstrated a strong ambition and determination to reach their goal has been unwavering. As their Wellness Coach, they have made a solid plan for the applicant's success and being responsible.

d. Their parent contends, the applicant went on a downward spiral after finding out their brother passed and requests an upgrade to Honorable as the applicant had worked hard to gain rank and pass all of their required tests. They failed to satisfy all requirements during service after returning from leave which was beyond the applicant's emotional control and requests understanding be given for their poor judgement then.

6. POST SERVICE ACCOMPLISHMENTS: The applicant has been working, going to school pursuing their goals, and has continued mental health therapy.

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. Multiple Department of Defense 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), 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.

d. Army Regulation 635-200 (Active Duty Enlisted Administrative Separations), 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) Chapter 3 provides 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.

(a) 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.

(b) 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.

(2) Chapter 14 establishes policy and prescribes procedures for separating members for misconduct. Specific categories include minor disciplinary infractions, a pattern of misconduct, and commission of a serious offense, to include abuse of illegal drugs, convictions by civil authorities and desertion or being absent without leave. Action will be taken to separate a member for misconduct when it is clearly established that rehabilitation is impractical or unlikely to succeed. 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 Soldier is subject to action per this section for commission of a serious military or civilian offense, if the specific circumstances of the offense warrant separation and a punitive discharge is, or would be, authorized for the same or a closely related offense under the Manual for Courts-Martial.

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 "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).

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 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.

g. 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.

h. Manual for Courts-Martial (2019 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 a schedule I controlled substance) states in the subparagraph, the maximum punishment consists of a bad conduct discharge, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, and confinement for two years.

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

b. The available evidence provides the applicant enlisted in the RA, served in Korea for a year, promoted to SPC, and served 2 years, 5 months, and 6 days prior to the misconduct which led to their involuntary separation. They received NJP for wrongful use of marijuana between June-July 2019 and was consequently demoted to PVT. Separation proceedings were initiated under the provisions of AR 635-200, Chapter 14-12c (2), Misconduct (Drug Abuse) with a General (Under Honorable Conditions) characterization of service. The applicant elected to consult with legal and elected to provide a statement on their behalf. Defense counsel advised them on the possible effects of their separation and rights available to them. They served 3 years and 23 days of their 4-year contractual obligation.

(1) They completed a separation physical and the examiner found them unqualified for service due to a diagnosis of Bipolar Disorder, Unspecified. The BH provider with Embedded Behavioral Health (EBH) confirmed the diagnosis and recommended the applicant to follow-up as already scheduled. A Medical Evaluation Board Proceedings, dated 6 November 2019, referred their case to a Physical Evaluation Board. The applicant concurred with the decision; however, on a Disability Evaluation System (DES) Commander's Performance and Functional Statement, the company commander stated the command unaware of any medical conditions and found it "extremely convenient that [the applicant] to experience adverse effects and reports same to [BH] on 31 July 2019, the day after [they] took a urinalysis that [they] knew [they] would test positive for THC on."

(2) A Veterans Affairs Summary of Benefits Letter, dated 27 October 2021, provides the applicant has been awarded 50% service-connected disability rating for Bipolar Disorder with Cannabis Use Disorder (also claimed Anxiety Condition, Depression).

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. 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.** 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: Adjustment Disorder, Bipolar Disorder.

(2) Did the condition exist or experience occur during military service? **Yes.** The Board's Medical Advisor found the applicant sought BH treatment and went through an MEB due to a diagnosis of Bipolar Disorder. Applicant is 50% service connected by the VA for Bipolar Disorder.

(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's diagnosis of Bipolar Disorder and subsequent MEB could be considered a mitigating factor in marijuana use. The applicant was not found to have a substance abuse diagnosis by ASAP, and in service, applicant's psychiatrist was trying different medications to control manic and depressive related symptoms. Applicant was not formally diagnosed with Bipolar Disorder until 28 Aug 2019, and this is when the applicant was started on a mood stabilizing medication (and MEB was initiated). When an individual is in a manic phase, it is not uncommon for them to engage in impulsive behaviors, and anecdotally, cannabis has been used to alleviate bipolar symptoms. Given this one-time positive UA for marijuana, the presence of a severe mental illness, and in accordance with liberal consideration the misconduct could be mitigated.

(4) Does the condition or experience outweigh the discharge? **Yes.** The Board concurred with the opinion of the Board's Medical Advisor, a voting member. As a result, the ADRB applied liberal consideration and found that the applicant's Bipolar DO outweighed the one-time marijuana use basis for separation.

b. Prior Decisions Cited: None

c. Response to Contention(s): The applicant seeks relief contending, they made mistakes in the past and have learned a lot from them. They suffer from Anxiety and Depression and this has hindered them but they will not allow this to stop them. They are seeking understanding in the matter that took place while they were actively serving. They have made the necessary

changes in their life and currently, takes medication for their disorder. They are a very responsible young person with a vision and has a family that they adore and love with every ounce of their soul. Their family has endured so much, as many others have and when faced with hardships, let the situation stand in the way of their better judgement. They are unable to change the past but can ensure not to do so in the future as they are a changed person. It is their hope that the Board sees what their character reference sees in them and give the opportunity of an upgrade to Honorable.

The Board determined that this contention was valid and voted to upgrade the characterization of service due to the applicant's Bipolar DO outweighed the one-time marijuana use.

(1) The Assistant Dean contends, the applicant has shown themselves to be a very responsible and positive young person who consistently demonstrated strong moral values, sense of family, and work ethic.

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 Bipolar DO outweighed the one-time marijuana use.

(2) The Financial Aid Counselor contends, the young person they have become is the direct results of their morals, values, and all-around exceptional character who is deserving of an Honorable discharge on their record because of the person of honor, strength, and integrity. 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 Bipolar DO outweighed the one-time marijuana use.

(3) Their Wellness Coach contends, they have watched the applicant evolve into an awesome, responsible young person who is wise beyond their years, logical, and forthright with a positive attitude. The applicant has demonstrated a strong ambition and determination to reach their goal has been unwavering. As their Wellness Coach, they have made a solid plan for the applicant's success and being responsible.

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 Bipolar DO outweighed the one-time marijuana use.

(4) Their parent contends, the applicant went on a downward spiral after finding out their brother passed and requests an upgrade to Honorable as the applicant had worked hard to gain rank and pass all of their required tests. They failed to satisfy all requirements during service after returning from leave which was beyond the applicant's emotional control and requests understanding be given for their poor judgement then.

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 Bipolar DO outweighed the one-time marijuana use.

d. The Board determined the discharge is inequitable based on the applicant's Bipolar Disorder mitigating the applicant's one-time marijuana use. 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.

e. Rationale for Decision:

(1) The Board voted to change the applicant's characterization of service to Honorable because the applicant's Bipolar DO outweighed the one-time marijuana use. Thus, the prior characterization is no longer appropriate.

(2) The Board voted to change the reason for discharge to Misconduct (Minor Infractions) under the same rationale, thus the reason for discharge is no longer appropriate. The SPD code associated with the new reason for discharge is JKN.

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

10. BOARD ACTION DIRECTED:

- a. **Issue a New DD-214:** 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:

11/12/2025



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

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