

1. Applicant's Name: [REDACTED]

a. Application Date: 16 January 2022

b. Date Received: 24 January 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.

b. Applicant Contention(s)/Issue(s): The applicant requests relief contending, an upgrade would allow them to access the education benefits associated with an honorable discharge. They have been rated 100% disabled through Veterans Affairs, receiving treatment including therapy and medication for both physical and mental health issues. The applicant stated their discharge stemmed from struggles with alcohol use and untreated mental health conditions, which led to mistakes in judgement while in service. They emphasized how they have transformed their character, having given themselves to God and been baptized, which motivated them to quit drinking, lose 30 pounds, and adopt healthier habits. The applicant highlights their renewed focus on positivity, discipline, and motivating others, crediting these changes to a structured routine similar to military life. They expressed gratitude for their service and request the opportunity to pursue higher education, with aspirations of attending medical school, obtaining a physics degree, and earning a Ph.D. The applicant seeks to dedicate their life to helping others, supporting their family, and building a better future. They acknowledged the youthful recklessness and past mistakes but stressed their growth gained from those experiences and affirmed a second chance would not be wasted.

c. Board Type and Decision: In a records review conducted on 4 November 2025, and by a 3-0 vote, the Board determined the discharge is inequitable based on the applicant's length and the circumstances surrounding the discharge (Mood Disorder, MDD 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 is 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: Pattern of Misconduct / AR 635-200, Chapter 14-12B / JKA / RE-3 / General (Under Honorable Conditions)

b. Date of Discharge: 16 October 2018

c. Separation Facts:

(1) Date of Notification of Intent to Separate: 22 August 2018

(2) Basis for Separation: On 5 March 2018, the applicant disobeyed a lawful order to maintain a barracks room and be present in it until further notice. On 23 April 2018, the

applicant wrongfully consumed alcohol while under the age of 21 and disobeyed a lawful order to not consume alcohol while at JRTC (Joint Readiness Training Center) and was found guilty of the above offense in a Company Grade Article 15 conducted on 6 June 2018. Between 20 February and 9 August 2018, on divers occasions, the applicant missed multiple formations.

(3) Recommended Characterization: General (Under

(4) Legal Consultation Date: 5 September 2018 / The applicant declined to provide a statement on their behalf.

(5) Administrative Separation Board: NA

(6) Separation Decision Date / Characterization: 13 September 2018 / General (Under Honorable Conditions)

4. SERVICE DETAILS:

a. Date / Period of Enlistment Under Review: 6 September 2016 / 3 years, 21 weeks

b. Age at Enlistment / Education / GT Score: 18 / High School Diploma / 123

c. Highest Grade Achieved / MOS / Total Service: E-3 / 11B1P Infantryman / 2 years, 1 month, 11 days

d. Prior Service / Characterizations: None

e. Overseas Service / Combat Service: None

f. Awards and Decorations: NDSM, GWOTSM, ASR, PRCHTBAD

g. Performance Ratings: NA

h. Disciplinary Action(s) / Evidentiary Record: The Enlisted Record Brief provides the applicant was flagged on 2 May 2018, for adverse action (AA) and field-initiated involuntary separation (BA). Between 20 February and 9 August 2018, the applicant received eight event-oriented counseling's for various acts of misconduct to include failures to report at the appointed time of prescribed duty, failing to follow orders/regulations, false official statement, and for underage drinking.

(1) On 6 June 2018, the applicant received nonjudicial punishment (NJP) for two specifications of failing to obey a lawful order/regulation prohibiting underage drinking, in violation of Article 92, UCMJ. Their punishment imposed a reduction to private second class (E-2), suspended forfeitures, and extra duty with restriction for 14 days.

(2) Between 18 May – 18 July 2018, the applicant completed separation exams. A mental status evaluation psychologically cleared them for administrative proceedings providing a diagnosis of "Other Problem Related to Employment" with no follow-up recommendations needed. Medically, the provider noted to "see notes" for diagnoses and qualified them for separation.

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 Disabilities Printout, dated 29 January 2024, provides the applicant receives a 100% service-connected disability rating effective 17 October 2018, for Unspecified Depressive and Anxiety Disorders, Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), and for other physical ailments.

(2) AMHRR provided: None

5. APPLICANT-PROVIDED EVIDENCE: Application for the Review of Discharge; Self-Authored Statement; Veterans Affairs Summary of Benefits Letter; VA Service-Connection Letter; VA Rating Decision

6. POST SERVICE ACCOMPLISHMENTS: The applicant is 100% service-connected through the VA, being treated for their physical and mental health conditions. They have given themselves to God and adopted a healthier lifestyle with sobriety, losing 30 pounds, and maintaining better habits.

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 631-10 (Absence, Without Leave, Desertion, and Administration of Personnel Involved in Civilian Court Proceedings) provides policies and procedures for reporting unauthorized absentees and deserters, the administering of absent without leave (AWOL) personnel and deserters, returning absentees and deserters to military control and the surrendering of military personnel to civilian law enforcement authorities. When a soldier returns from an absence that is or appears to be unauthorized, the unit commander informally investigates whether disciplinary action should be taken and if the soldier be charge with time lost.

(1) Classification of an absence is dependent upon such factors as the following:

- Order and instructions, written/oral, the Soldier received before/during absence

- Age, military experience, and general intelligence of the Soldier
- Number and type of contact the Soldier had with the military absent
- Complete or incomplete results of a court-martial decision if any

(2) An absence immediately following authorized leave is classified as AWOL. Should the absence subsequently be reclassified, the soldier's leave is corrected to reflect the reclassified absence, except if the absence is caused by the following:

- Mental incapacity
- Detention by civilian authorities
- Early departure of a mobile unit due to operational commitments

h. 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. 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.

(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

i. 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 14-12B, Pattern of Misconduct.

j. Manual for Courts-Martial (2016 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 86** (failure to go, going from place of duty) states in the subparagraph, the maximum punishment consists of forfeiture of two-thirds pay and allowances for one month, and confinement for one month. **Article 92** (failure to obey order, regulation): dishonorable discharge, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, and confinement for two years.

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

(1) An authenticated DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) provides the applicant was discharged under the provisions of AR 635-200, Chapter 14-12B for pattern of misconduct with a general (under honorable conditions) characterization of service. Between February and August 2018, they received eight event-oriented counseling's for various acts of misconduct to include failures to report, false official statement, and for failing to follow orders/regulations (underage drinking). They additionally received NJP for the underage drinking on two occasions in violation of Article 92, UCMJ and was subsequently reduced to PV2. They served 2 years, 1 month, and 11 days of a 3 year-21 week contractual obligation.

(a) The applicant contends, an upgrade would allow them to access education benefits tied to an honorable discharge. They reported their 100% service-connected disability rating through the VA and has been undergoing therapy and medication for physical and mental health issues. The applicant explained their discharged stemmed from alcohol use and untreated mental health conditions which led to mistakes in judgement while in service. They have since transformed their character after giving themselves to God and being baptized, which motivated them to quit drinking, lose 30 pounds, and adopt healthier habits. The applicant expressed gratitude for their service and aspired to pursue higher education, including medical school, a physics degree, and a Ph.D. They acknowledged youthful recklessness but stressed their growth from those experiences and affirmed a second chance would not be wasted.

(b) Separation examinations were conducted indicating no diagnoses or recommendations, medically qualifying and psychiatrically clearing the applicant for administrative proceedings. They have since received an 100% service-connected disability rating effective 17 October 2018, for Unspecified Depressive and Anxiety Disorders, TBI, and for other physical ailments.

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: Mood Disorder, MDD

(2) Did the condition exist, or experience occur during military service? **Yes.** The Board's Medical Advisor found the applicant is 70 percent SC for Mood Disorder and was diagnosed in-service w/MDD

(3) Does the condition or experience actually excuse or mitigate the discharge? **Yes.** The Board's Medical Advisor applied liberal consideration and opined that a review of the available records shows the applicant has BH conditions that mitigates his misconduct as outlined in the BoS. The applicant is 70 percent SC for Mood Disorder (claimed as Unspecified Depressive Disorder and Unspecified Anxiety Disorder) and was diagnosed in-service with MDD, which is subsumed under Mood Disorder. Although records show the applicant had a significant substance use history prior to enlisting, the available information suggest the applicant discontinued use prior to entry. Per the Initial PTSD the applicant began using alcohol in excess and abusing prescription medication in 2017, to address depressive symptoms secondary to hazing and bullying by unit members. Records reflect the applicant's misconduct outlined in the BoS occurred in 2018, after the established SC BH condition. Therefore, given the nexus between the applicant's BH conditions and the use of substances to self-medicate, isolative behavior, fatigue, and avoidant behavior, his misconduct characterized using alcohol under the age of 21, wrongfully consuming alcohol at JRTC – thus disobeying a lawful order, and missing formation is mitigated by his SC BH condition. Regarding the applicant's assertion of his misconduct being also related to TBI; the Initial TBI DBQ was not available for review therefore the impact of the mTBI on his misconduct could not be established. Upgrade based on medical mitigation is supported.

(4) Does the condition or experience outweigh the discharge? **Yes.** After applying liberal consideration to the evidence, including the Board's Medical Advisor's opine, the Board determined that the applicant's condition outweighed the listed basis for separation for the aforementioned reasons.

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

c. Response to Contention: The applicant is contending, an upgrade would allow them to access education benefits tied to an honorable discharge. They reported their 100% service-connected disability rating through the VA and has been undergoing therapy and medication for physical and mental health issues. The applicant explained their discharge stemmed from

alcohol use and untreated mental health conditions which led to mistakes in judgement while in service. They have since transformed their character after giving themselves to God and being baptized, which motivated them to quit drinking, lose 30 pounds, and adopt healthier habits. The applicant expressed gratitude for their service and aspired to pursue higher education, including medical school, a physics degree, and a Ph.D. They acknowledged youthful recklessness but stressed their growth from those experiences and affirmed a second chance would not be wasted.

The Board 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.

d. The Board determined the discharge is inequitable based on the applicant's length and the circumstances surrounding the discharge (Mood Disorder, MDD 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 is 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 change the applicant's characterization of service to Honorable based on medical/BH mitigation for the Basis of Separation.

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

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

10. BOARD ACTION DIRECTED:

- a. Issue a New DD-214: 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:

11/19/2025



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
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