

1. Applicant's Name: [REDACTED]**a. Application Date:** 17 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, in effect suffering from extreme depression and anxiety following Advanced individual Training (AIT); leading to self-harm as a coping mechanism. The applicant sought help in November of 2018 and was diagnosed with Adjustment Disorder. The applicant also attempted suicide on 14 June 2019. Following the clearance from Behavioral Health, the applicant began to abuse over the counter medication and alcohol in April 2019; because of many life changes. The applicant attempted suicide and was admitted to an inpatient facility on 15 June 2019. The applicant also found out they were pregnant and notified their command. The applicant contends being summoned to a meeting and was notified of the intent to separate by the 1SG and Commander. The applicant had plans to continue education post service and work. The applicant applied to become an Animal Control Officer with the Sheriff's Office and was denied due to the characterization of discharge.

c. Board Type and Decision: In a records review conducted on 26 January 2026, and by a 3-0 vote, the Board determined the discharge was inequitable and voted to change the characterization to Honorable. The narrative reason, SPD code and re-entry codes were deemed proper and equitable. Please see **Board Discussion and Determination** section for more detail regarding the Board's decision. Board member names are available upon request.

3. DISCHARGE DETAILS:

a. Reason / Authority / Codes / Characterization: Alcohol Rehabilitation Failure / AR 635-200, Chapter 9 / JPD / RE-4 / General (Under Honorable Conditions)

b. Date of Discharge: 29 January 2020

c. Separation Facts:

(1) Date of Notification of Intent to Separate: 8 January 2020

(2) Basis for Separation: The applicant was informed of the following reasons: Failed and refused to participate in mandatory substance abuse treatment.

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

(4) Legal Consultation Date: On 14 January 2019, the applicant waived legal counsel.

(5) Administrative Separation Board: NA

(6) Separation Decision Date / Characterization: 16 January 2020 / General (Under Honorable Conditions)

4. SERVICE DETAILS:

a. Date / Period of Enlistment: 8 February 2018 / 3 years, 25 weeks

b. Age at Enlistment / Education / GT Score: 20 / High School Graduate / 104

c. Highest Grade Achieved / MOS / Total Service: E-3 / 13R1O, Field Artillery Fire Finder Radar Operator / 1 year, 10 months, 11 days

d. Prior Service / Characterizations: None

e. Overseas Service / Combat Service: None

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

g. Performance Ratings: NA

h. Disciplinary Action(s) / Evidentiary Record:

(1) Memorandum for Record, 6 January 2019, reflects the applicant was command referred to the Army Substance Abuse Disorder Clinical Care (SUDCC) on 12 July 2019.

(2) The applicant's DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) indicates the applicant had not completed the first full term of service. The applicant was discharged under the authority of AR 635-200, Chapter 9, with a narrative reason of Alcohol Rehabilitation Failure The DD Form 214 was authenticated with the applicant's electronic signature. The applicant had no lost time.

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: Report of Medical History, 19 November 2019, reflects the applicant has mentions of attempted suicide on 14 June 2019, and admission to inpatient facility on 15 June 2019 and diagnosed with Adjustment Disorder. The applicant was then discharged from the facility 18 November 2019.

(2) AMHRR Listed: Report of Mental Status Evaluation (MSE), 1 October 2019, does not clearly indicate neither being cleared for any administrative actions the command deemed appropriate, nor the ability to understand and participate in administrative proceedings and appreciated the difference between right and wrong. The applicant was seen to have a condition that is likely to impair judgment or reliability to protect classified information. The applicant was found to meet the medical retention requirements of Chapter 3, paragraph of AR 40-501 and does did not require a medical board for psychiatric purposes. The applicant's SUDCC provider recommended a discharge under the provisions of AR 635-200, Chapter 9 administrative separation because failure to comply with treatment plan. The command was advised to

consider their influence. The applicant was diagnosed with Alcohol Use Disorder, Severe; Dextromethorphan; and Suicidal Ideations.

5. APPLICANT-PROVIDED EVIDENCE: Application for the Review of Discharge; Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty; Personal Letter; Disqualification Letter from local Sheriff's Office; Report of Medical Examination; Report of Medical History; Completion of Addiction Medicine Incentive Outpatient Program (AMIOP) Memorandum.

6. POST SERVICE ACCOMPLISHMENTS: None submitted with the application.

7. STATUTORY, REGULATORY AND POLICY REFERENCE(S):

a. Section 1553, Title 10, United States Code (Review of Discharge or Dismissal) provides for the creation, composition, and scope of review conducted by a Discharge Review Board(s) within established governing standards. As amended by Sections 521 and 525 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020, 10 USC 1553 provides specific guidance to the Military Boards for Correction of Military/Naval Records and Discharge Review Boards when considering discharge upgrade requests by Veterans claiming Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), sexual trauma, intimate partner violence (IPV), or spousal abuse, as a basis for discharge review. The amended guidance provides that Boards will include, as a voting board member, a physician trained in mental health disorders, a clinical psychologist, or a psychiatrist when the discharge upgrade claim asserts a mental health condition, including PTSD, TBI, sexual trauma, IPV, or spousal abuse, as a basis for the discharge. Further, the guidance provides that Military Boards for Correction of Military/Naval Records and Discharge Review Boards will develop and provide specialized training specific to sexual trauma, IPV, spousal abuse, as well as the various responses of individuals to trauma.

b. Office, Secretary of Defense memorandum (Supplemental Guidance to Military Boards for Correction of Military/Naval Records Considering Discharge Upgrade Requests by Veterans Claiming Post Traumatic Stress Disorder), 3 September 2014, directed the Service Discharge Review Boards (DRBs) and Service Boards for Correction of Military/Naval Records (BCM/NRs) to carefully consider the revised PTSD criteria, detailed medical considerations and mitigating factors when taking action on applications from former service members administratively discharged UOTHC and who have been diagnosed with PTSD by a competent mental health professional representing a civilian healthcare provider in order to determine if it would be appropriate to upgrade the characterization of the applicant's service.

c. Office, Under Secretary of Defense memorandum (Clarifying Guidance to Military Discharge Review Boards and Boards for Correction of Military/Naval Records Considering Requests by Veterans for Modification of their Discharge Due to Mental Health Conditions, Sexual Assault, or Sexual Harassment), 25 August 2017 issued clarifying guidance for the Secretary of Defense Directive to DRBs and BCM/NRs when considering requests by Veterans for modification of their discharges due in whole or in part to mental health conditions, including PTSD; Traumatic Brain Injury; sexual assault; or sexual harassment. Boards are to give liberal consideration to Veterans petitioning for discharge relief when the application for relief is based in whole or in part to those conditions or experiences. The guidance further describes evidence sources and criteria and requires Boards to consider the conditions or experiences presented in evidence as potential mitigation for misconduct that led to the discharge.

d. Office, Under Secretary of Defense memorandum (Guidance to Military Discharge Review Boards and Boards for Correction of Military/Naval Records Regarding Equity, Injustice, or Clemency Determinations), 25 July 2018 issued guidance to Military DRBs and BCM/NRs regarding equity, injustice, or clemency determinations. Clemency generally refers to relief

specifically granted from a criminal sentence. However, the guidance applies to more than clemency from a sentencing in a court-martial; it also applies to other corrections, including changes in a discharge, which may be warranted based on equity or relief from injustice.

(1) This guidance does not mandate relief but rather provides standards and principles to guide Boards in application of their equitable relief authority. In determining whether to grant relief on the basis of equity, injustice, or clemency grounds, DRBs shall consider the prospect for rehabilitation, external evidence, sworn testimony, policy changes, relative severity of misconduct, mental and behavioral health conditions, official governmental acknowledgement that a relevant error or injustice was committed, and uniformity of punishment.

(2) Changes to the narrative reason for discharge and/or an upgraded character of service granted solely on equity, injustice, or clemency grounds normally should not result in separation pay, retroactive promotions, and payment of past medical expenses or similar benefits that might have been received if the original discharge had been for the revised reason or had the upgraded service characterization.

e. Army Regulation 15-180 (Army Discharge Review Board), sets forth the policies and procedures under which the Army Discharge Review Board is authorized to review the character, reason, and authority of any Servicemember discharged from active military service within 15 years of the Servicemember's date of discharge. Additionally, it prescribes actions and composition of the Army Discharge Review Board under Public Law 95-126; Section 1553, Title 10 United States Code; and Department of Defense Directive 1332.41 and Instruction 1332.28.

f. Army Regulation 601-210, Regular Army, and Reserve Components Enlistment Program, governs eligibility criteria, policies, and procedures for enlistment and processing of persons into the Regular Army, the U.S. Army Reserve, and Army National Guard for enlistment per DODI 1304.26. It also prescribes the appointment, reassignment, management, and mobilization of Reserve Officers' Training Corps cadets under the Simultaneous Membership Program. Chapter 4 provides the criteria and procedures for waiverable and nonwaiverable separations. Table 3-1, defines reentry eligibility (RE) codes:

- RE-1 Applies to: Person completing his or her term of active service who is considered qualified to reenter the U.S. Army. Eligibility: Qualified for enlistment if all other criteria are met.

- RE-3 Applies to: Person who is not considered fully qualified for reentry or continuous service at time of separation, but disqualification is waiverable. Eligibility: Ineligible unless a waiver is granted.

- RE-4 Applies to: Person separated from last period of service with a nonwaiverable disqualification. This includes anyone with a DA imposed bar to reenlistment in effect at time of separation or separated for any reason (except length of service retirement) with 18 or more years active Federal service. Eligibility: Ineligible for enlistment.

g. Army Regulation 635-200 (Active Duty Enlisted Administrative Separations), provides the basic authority for the separation of enlisted personnel.

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

(a) Paragraph 3-7a states an Honorable discharge is a separation with honor and is appropriate when the quality of the Soldier's service generally has met the standards of

acceptable conduct and performance of duty for Army personnel or is otherwise so meritorious that any other characterization would be clearly inappropriate.

(b) Paragraph 3-7b states a General discharge is a separation from the Army under honorable conditions and is issued to a Soldier whose military record is satisfactory but not sufficiently meritorious to warrant an honorable discharge.

(c) Chapter 9 outlines the procedures for discharging individuals because of alcohol or other drug abuse. A member who has been referred to the Army Substance Abuse Program (ASAP) for alcohol or drug abuse may be separated because of inability or refusal to participate in, cooperate in, or successfully complete such a program if there is a lack of potential for continued Army service and rehabilitation efforts are no longer practical. An honorable discharge is mandated in any case in which the Government initially introduces into the final discharge process limited use evidence as defined by AR 600-85.

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

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

h. Army Regulation 635-5-1 (Separation Program Designator (SPD) Codes), provides the specific authorities (regulatory or directive), reasons for separating Soldiers from active duty, and the SPD codes to be entered on the DD Form 214. It identifies the SPD code of "JPD" as the appropriate code to assign enlisted Soldiers who are discharged under the provisions of Army Regulation 635-200, Chapter 9, for alcohol rehabilitation failure.

8. SUMMARY OF FACT(S): Standard of Review. The Army Discharge Review Board considers applications for upgrade as instructed by Department of Defense Instruction 1332.28.

a. The applicant requests an upgrade to honorable. The applicant's Army Military Human Resources Record (AMHRR), the issues, and documents submitted with the application were carefully reviewed.

b. The applicant was notified of intent to separate on 8 January 2020, for failing and refused for not complying to mandatory treatment. The applicant was recommended a general (under honorable conditions) discharge. The applicant elected to not submit a statement and elected to not have counsel on 14 January 2020. The applicant underwent an MSE and was diagnosed with Alcohol Use Disorder, Severe; Dextromethorphan; and Suicidal Ideations.

c. The applicant contends suffering from extreme depression and anxiety following Advanced individual Training (AIT). This led to self-harm as a coping mechanism. The applicant also attempted suicide on 14 June 2019, after misusing over the counter drugs and alcohol. The applicant submitted a completion certificate for Intensive Outpatient Program while on active-

duty service. A Report of Medical History, 19 November 2019, reflects the applicant had mentioned attempted suicide on 14 June 2019, and admission to inpatient facility on 15 June 2019 and diagnosed with Adjustment Disorder. The applicant was then discharged from the facility 18 November 2019. The applicant's AMHRR includes a Report of Mental Status Evaluation (MSE), 1 October 2019, reflecting the applicant was diagnosed with Alcohol Use Disorder, Severe; Dextromethorphan; and Suicidal Ideations. The separation authority considered the MSE.

d. The applicant contends an upgraded discharge would improve employment prospects. The Board does not grant relief to secure or enhance job opportunities. The applicant applied for a job in the sheriff's office and was denied because of the discharge characterization.

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: Adjustment Disorder and Alcohol Dependence.

(2) Did the condition exist or experience occur during military service? **Yes.** Adjustment Disorder and Alcohol Dependence.

(3) Does the condition or experience actually excuse or mitigate the discharge? **Yes.** The Board's Medical Advisor applied liberal consideration and opined that given service-connected symptoms existed prior to the substance use and nexus between the behavioral health symptoms and self-medication, the basis is mitigated.

(4) Does the condition or experience outweigh the discharge? **Yes.** After applying liberal consideration to the evidence, including the Board Medical Advisor opine, the Board determined that the applicant's Adjustment Disorder and Alcohol Dependence outweighed the applicant's rehabilitation failure.

b. Prior Decisions Cited: None

c. Response to Contention(s):

(1) The applicant contends suffering from extreme depression and anxiety following Advanced individual Training (AIT). The Board liberally considered this contention and determined that it was valid due to the applicant's Adjustment Disorder and Alcohol Dependence outweighed the applicant's rehabilitation failure. Therefore, a discharge upgrade is warranted

(2) The applicant contends an upgraded discharge would improve employment prospects. The Board considered this contention but does not grant relief to gain employment or enhance employment opportunities.

d. The Board determined: The applicant's service-connected behavior health symptoms existed prior to the substance abuse—discharge—and ultimately led to the applicant self-medicating. They are service connected for an Adjustment Disorder, and more recently,

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diagnosed with Grave's Disease which compounded their behavioral health symptoms, ultimately leading to the misconduct. Applying liberal consideration, the misconduct is mitigated. The Board voted unanimous upgrade the characterization of discharge to Honorable.

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 Adjustment Disorder and Alcohol Dependence outweighed the applicant's rehabilitation failure. Thus, the prior characterization is no longer appropriate.

(3) The Board voted not to change the applicant's reason for discharge or accompanying SPD code under the same pretexts, and the reason the applicant was discharged was both proper and equitable.

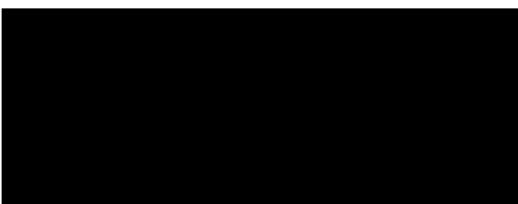
(4) The RE code will not change, as the current code is consistent with the procedural and substantive requirements of the regulation.

10. BOARD ACTION DIRECTED:

- a. Issue a New DD-214 / Separation Order: Yes**
- b. Change Characterization to: Honorable**
- c. Change Reason / SPD code to: No Change**
- d. Change RE Code to: No Change**
- e. Change Authority to: No Change**

Authenticating Official:

1/29/2026



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
UOTHIC – Under Other Than
Honorable Conditions
VA – Department of Veterans
Affairs