

1. Applicant's Name: [REDACTED]**a. Application Date:** 20 January 2022**b. Date Received:** 14 February 2022**c. Counsel:** None**2. REQUEST, ISSUES, BOARD TYPE, AND DECISION:****a. Applicant's Requests and Issues:**

(1) The current characterization of service for the period under review is General (Under Honorable Conditions). The applicant requests an upgrade to Honorable.

(2) The applicant seeks relief contending they believe the punishment for the crime they committed did not fit the bill.

b. Board Type and Decision: In a records review conducted on 21 November 2025, and by a 3-0 vote. The Board voted not to change the applicant's characterization of service because, despite applying liberal consideration of all the evidence before the Board, the applicant did not have a condition or experience that may excuse or mitigate the pattern of misconduct. The Board found the totality of the applicant's record does not warrant a discharge upgrade. However, the board determined the applicant should have an opportunity to re-enter the Armed Forces with a waiver and upgraded their re-entry code to RE-3. 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) / Army Regulations 635-200, Paragraph 14-12c(2) / JKK / RE-4 / General (Under Honorable Conditions)

b. Date of Discharge: 19 April 2013**c. Separation Facts:**

(1) **Date of Notification of Intent to Separate:** 27 March 2013

(2) **Basis for Separation:** The applicant was informed of the following reason: wrongfully used Cocaine, a Schedule II controlled substance, on or between 30 December 2012 and 4 January 2013.

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

(4) **Legal Consultation Date:** 28 March 2013

(5) **Administrative Separation Board:** NA

(6) **Separation Decision Date / Characterization:** 16 April 2013, General (Under Honorable Conditions)

4. SERVICE DETAILS:

- a. **Date / Period of Enlistment:** 20 August 2012 / 3 years, 30 weeks
- b. **Age at Reenlistment / Education / GT Score:** 23 / HS Graduate / 91
- c. **Highest Grade Achieved / MOS / Total Service:** E-1 / NA / 8 months
- d. **Prior Service / Characterizations:** None
- e. **Overseas Service / Combat Service:** None
- f. **Awards and Decorations:** NDSM, ASR
- g. **Performance Ratings:** NA
- h. **Disciplinary Action(s) / Evidentiary Record:**

(1) A DA Form 4856 (Developmental Counseling Form) dated 6 February 2013 reflects the applicant received counseling for a positive specimen result from a 100-percent unit urinalysis on 4 January 2013. The Key Points of Discussion reflects on 4 January 2013 the applicant's unit held a 100-percent urinalysis for all Soldiers returning from holiday leave. On 30 January 2013, the applicant's company commander received the results of the test, with the applicant's specimen positive for Cocaine. As a result of the positive result, the applicant was under investigation by the U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Division (USACIDC). The company commander informed the applicant of being processed for Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) and of administrative separation procedures being initiated. The applicant agreed with the information, provided no remarks, and signed the counseling form.

(2) A DA Form 4856 (Developmental Counseling Form) dated 6 February 2013 reflects the applicant received counseling for Failure to obey order, regulation. The applicant agreed with the information, provided no remarks and signed the counseling form.

(3) A DA Form 2627 (Record of Proceedings under Article 15, Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ)) dated 13 February 2013, reflects the applicant received nonjudicial punishment, in that they, did at or near Fort Gordon, GA, from, on or about 30 December 2012 to on or about 4 January 2013, wrongfully used Cocaine, a schedule II controlled substance, in violation of Article 112a, UCMJ. The applicant's punishment consisted of forfeiture of \$758.00 pay for two months and extra duty and restriction for 45 days. The applicant elected not to appeal.

(4) A memorandum, USACIDC, Fort Gordon, CID Office, subject: CID Report of Investigation, dated 27 February 2013, reflects the applicant as the named subject, in violation of Wrongful Use of Cocaine. The Investigative Summary reflects the investigation was initiated by the Installation Drug Testing Coordinator, Army Substance Abuse Program (ASAP), Fort Gordon, who reported the applicant tested positive for Cocaine during a Unit Urinalysis Inspection. Investigation established probable cause to believe the applicant committed the offense of wrongful use of controlled substance when they consumed Cocaine as determined by a Unit Urinalysis Inspection. The applicant was advised of their legal rights which they waived and admitted they consumed Cocaine while on leave. Captain V____ S____, Trial Counsel, Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, Fort Gordon, opined probable cause existed to believe the applicant committed the offense of wrongful use of controlled substance.

(5) A DA Form 4856 (Developmental Counseling Form) dated 5 March 2013 reflects the applicant received counseling for failure to report for their Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Training appointment on 28 February 2013. The applicant agreed with the information, provided no remarks and signed the counseling form.

(6) A memorandum, Echo Company, 551st Signal Battalion, subject: Separation under Army Regulation 635-200, Paragraph 14-12c(2), Misconduct – Abuse of Illegal Drugs, [Applicant], dated 27 March 2013, reflects the applicant received notification of the initiation of separation action against them from their company commander for Abuse of Illegal Drugs. The reason for the proposed separation action is for wrongfully used Cocaine, a Schedule II controlled substance, on or between 30 December 2012 and 4 January 2013. The company commander recommended the applicant's service be characterized as General (Under Honorable Conditions). On the same date the applicant acknowledged receipt of their notification of separation and of the rights available to them.

(7) On 28 March 2013 the applicant completed their Election of Rights acknowledging they have been advised by their consulting counsel of the basis for the contemplated action to separate them for Misconduct – Abuse of Illegal Drugs and its effects: of the rights available to them, and of the effect of any action by them in waiving their rights. They understood they may expect to encounter substantial prejudice in civilian life if a General (Under Honorable Conditions) discharge is issued to them. They understand that if they are subject to the issuance of a discharge Under Other Than Honorable Conditions, they may be ineligible for many or all benefits as a veteran under both Federal and State laws. They requested consulting counsel and elected to submit statements in their own behalf. In the applicant's statement, they requested to be retained in the Army to further develop their full potential through Army Substance Abuse Program. They submitted four Character Statements attesting to the applicant's character and potential.

(8) A memorandum, Echo Company, 551st Signal Battalion, subject: Commander's Report – Proposed Separation under Army Regulation 635-200, Paragraph 14-12c(2), Misconduct – Abuse of Illegal Drugs, [Applicant], dated 5 April 2013, reflects the applicant's company commander recommendation for the applicant to be separated from the Army prior to the expiration of their current term of service. The company commander does not consider it feasible or appropriate to accomplish other disposition as the applicant has demonstrated they cannot be an asset to the Army in any capacity and continued service will be a burden to the Army and the applicant.

(9) A memorandum, Headquarters, 551st Signal Battalion, subject: Separation under Army Regulation 635-200, Paragraph 14-12c(2), Misconduct – Abuse of Illegal Drugs, [Applicant], dated 5 April 2013, reflects the applicant's battalion commander recommended the applicant be separated from the Army prior to the expiration of their current term of service and their service be characterized as General (Under Honorable Conditions). They recommended that any requirement for a rehabilitative transfer in this case be waived as the transfer would serve no useful purpose or produce a quality Soldier. The applicant has demonstrated they cannot be an asset to the Army in any capacity and continued service will be a burden to the Army and the Soldier.

(10) A memorandum, Headquarters, 15th Regimental Signal Brigade, subject: Separation under Army Regulation 635-200, Paragraph 14-12c(2), Misconduct – Abuse of Illegal Drugs, [Applicant], dated 16 April 2013, reflects the separation authority reviewed the separation packet and after careful consideration of all matters, directed the applicant be separated from the Army prior to the expiration of their current term of service. They directed the

applicant's service be characterized as General (Under Honorable Conditions). They directed that the requirement for the rehabilitative transfer in this case be waived.

(11) The applicant's DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) reflects they were discharged on 19 April 2013, with 8 months of net active service this period. The DD Form 214 show in –

- item 24 (Character of Service) –General (Under Honorable Conditions)
- item 26 (Separation Code) – JKK
- item 27 (Reentry Code) – 4
- item 28 (Narrative Reason for Separation) – Misconduct (Drug Abuse)

i. Lost Time / Mode of Return: NA

j. Behavioral Health Condition(s): None

5. APPLICANT-PROVIDED EVIDENCE: None Submitted with the application.

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

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

a. Title 10, U.S. Code, Section 1553, (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, Title 10, U.S. Code, Section 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; Title 10, U.S. Code, Section 1553; and Department of Defense (DoD) Directive 1332.41 and DoD Instruction 1332.28.

f. Army Regulation 635-200 (Active Duty Enlisted Administrative Separations) effective 6 September 2011, 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. It prescribes the policies, procedures, and the general provisions governing the separation of Soldiers before expiration term of service or fulfillment of active-duty obligation to meet the needs of the Army and its Soldiers.

(1) 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.

(2) 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.

(3) An Under Other Than Honorable Conditions Discharge is an administrative separation from the Service under conditions other than honorable. It may be issued for misconduct, fraudulent entry, security reasons, or in lieu of trial by court-martial.

(4) 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. Paragraph 14-12c(2) (Abuse of Illegal Drugs is Serious Misconduct), stated, however; 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. 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.

(5) Chapter 15 (Secretarial Plenary Authority), currently in effect, 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.

g. 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, paragraph 12c(2), misconduct (drug abuse).

h. 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 DoD Instructions 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.

i. Army Regulation 600-85 (Army Substance Abuse Program (ASAP)) governs the program and identifies Army policy on alcohol and other drug abuse, and responsibilities. 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. 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.

j. Manual for Courts-Martial, United States (2012 Edition) stated, 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 order and discipline in the Armed Forces. Appendix 12 (Maximum Punishment Chart) Manual for Courts-Martial shows the maximum punishments include punitive discharge for violating Article 112a (Wrongful Use, Possession, etc., of Controlled Substances).

8. SUMMARY OF FACT(S):

a. The Army Discharge Review Board considers applications for upgrade as instructed by Department of Defense Instruction 1332.28.

b. A review of the available evidence reflects as the applicant received nonjudicial punishment under the provisions of Article 15, UCMJ for wrongfully use Cocaine and was involuntarily discharged from the U.S. Army. Their DD Form 214 provides they were discharged with a character of service of General (Under Honorable Conditions) for misconduct (drug abuse). They completed 8 months of net active service and did not complete their first full term of service of their 3-year 30-week enlistment obligation.

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; to include abuse of illegal drugs; 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? **No.** The Board's Medical Advisor reviewed DoD and VA medical records and found no mitigating BH diagnoses on the applicant. The applicant provided no documents or

testimony of a condition or experience, that, when applying liberal consideration, could have excused or mitigated a discharge.

(2) Did the condition exist, or experience occur during military service? **N/A**

(3) Does the condition or experience actually excuse or mitigate the discharge? **N/A**

(4) Does the condition or experience outweigh the discharge? **N/A**

b. Prior Decisions Cited: **N/A**

c. Response to Contention(s): The applicant contends they believe the punishment for the crime they committed did not fit the bill. The Board considered this contention and determined that the discharge was consistent with the procedural and substantive requirements of the regulation, was within the discretion of the separation authority, and the applicant was provided full administrative due process. Therefore, the applicant's discharge was proper and equitable as the applicant's misconduct fell below that level of meritorious service warranted for an upgrade to Honorable discharge.

d. The Board determined and voted not to change the applicant's characterization of service because, despite applying liberal consideration of all the evidence before the Board, the applicant did not have a condition or experience that may excuse or mitigate the pattern of misconduct. The Board found the totality of the applicant's record does not warrant a discharge upgrade. However, the board determined the applicant should have an opportunity to re-enter the Armed Forces with a waiver and upgraded their re-entry code to RE-3.

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 not to change the applicant's characterization of service because, despite applying liberal consideration of all the evidence presented, the applicant's wrongful use of cocaine did not mitigate the offenses. The discharge was consistent with the procedural and substantive requirements of the regulation, was within the discretion of the separation authority, and the applicant was provided full administrative due process.

(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 change to RE-3.

ARMY DISCHARGE REVIEW BOARD CASE REPORT AND DIRECTIVE**AR20220004909****10. BOARD ACTION DIRECTED:**

- a. Issue a New DD-214 / Separation Order: Yes
- b. Change Characterization to: No Change
- c. Change Reason / SPD code to: No Change
- d. Change RE Code to: RE-3
- e. Change Authority to: No Change

Authenticating Official:

12/1/2025

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

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