

1. Applicant's Name: [REDACTED]

a. Application Date: 5 February 2022

b. Date Received: 14 February 2022

c. Counsel: None

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

a. Applicant Requests: The current characterization of service for the period under review is honorable. The applicant requests an upgrade to their reenry code.

b. Applicant Contention(s)/Issue(s): The applicant requests relief contending, they expressed deep pride in their Army service, describing it as one of their greatest accomplishments and a defining part of their identity. The applicant stated the Army has transformed their life, taught them valuable skills, discipline, and leadership, and motivated them to help others. They acknowledged past mistakes but emphasized growth, maturity, and a commitment to self-improvement. The applicant highlighted their strong work ethic, professionalism, and willingness to go above and beyond to support their unit and peers. Their long-term goal is to advance within the Army, become a Motor Pool Sergeant, and lead Soldiers by example. They aspire to repay the Army through continued service, mentorship, and dedication. Overall, the applicant requests another opportunity to continue their Army career, reaffirming their passion, loyalty, and determination to succeed.

c. Board Type and Decision: In a records review conducted on 26 January 2026, and by a 3-0 vote, the Board determined the applicant's discharge is inequitable and directs a change in their original discharge to an Honorable characterization and a Re Code of 3. Further, the Board voted to change the applicant's reserve discharge to reflect a Re Code of 1. 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: NIF / AR 135-178 / NIF / NIF / Honorable

b. Date of Discharge: 31 May 2021

c. Separation Facts: The case separation files were not properly stored in the Army Military Human Resource Record (AMHRR); therefore, the specific facts and circumstances surrounding separation, are unknown.

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

(2) Basis for Separation: NIF

(3) Recommended Characterization: NIF

(4) Legal Consultation Date: NIF

(5) Administrative Separation Board: NIF

(6) Separation Decision Date / Characterization: NIF**4. SERVICE DETAILS:**

a. Date / Period of Enlistment Under Review: 9 July 2012 / 3 years, 27 weeks (United States Army Reserve (USAR)) / Oath of Extension of Enlistment or Reenlistment, dated 8 July 2020, reflects a one-year period of extension; although, it was later voided by HQDA.

b. Age at Enlistment / Education / GT Score: 18 / High School Diploma / 103

c. Highest Grade Achieved / MOS / Total Service: E-4 / 91B10 Wheeled Vehicle Mechanic / 5 years, 5 months, 3 days

d. Prior Service / Characterizations: None

e. Overseas Service / Combat Service: Korea / None; Poland / None

f. Awards and Decorations: AAM-3, NDSM, GWOTSM, ASR, OSR-2, ARCOTR, AFRM-M

g. Performance Ratings: NA

h. Disciplinary Action(s) / Evidentiary Record: A Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214) provides the applicant was discharged under the provisions of AR 635-200, Chapter 9 for Alcohol Rehabilitation Failure, with a general (under honorable conditions) characterization of service on 31 March 2015. They served 2 years, 8 months, and 22 days-3 year-27-week contractual obligation of active duty service and did not complete the first full term of service.

(1) A DD Form 214 reflects the applicant was discharged accordingly on 11 January 2018, providing the following:

- Authority: AR 635-200, Chapter 4
- Narrative Reason: Completion of Required Active Service
- SPD Code: MBK
- Reentry Code: NA
- Service Characterization: Honorable
- Total NET Active Service Period:
- Remarks: Service in Poland, 20 March – 5 December 2017; Completed period for which ordered to Active Duty for purpose of post service benefits and entitlements; ordered to active duty in support of Atlantic Resolve IAW 10 USC 12304B; Has not completed first full term of service; DOL 12-14 December 2017
- Lost Time: None
- Signature: Unable to electronically sign.

(2) A Developmental Counseling Form, dated 21 May 2021, provides a bar to continued service was imposed for the following: When the applicant separated from active duty on 31 March 2015, they were issued an RE-4 reenlistment code for Alcohol Rehabilitation Failure. This rendered them with a non-waiverable disqualification for reentry eligibility. With the approval of Headquarters, Department of the Army (HQDA), Deputy Chief of Staff (DCS) G-1, the applicant was to receive an antedated reenlistment; and their expiration term of service (ETS) would be one day following their current ETS date of 31 May 2015; therefore, the effective date was 1 June 2015. Their current [at the time] contract expired 31 May 2021. The

entire intent of the approved exception to policy (ETP) was to allow them to ETS without incurring a debt for time served. The bar to reenlistment was issued on 23 May 2021.

(3) A Personnel Action, dated 27 March 2021, provides the applicant requested a HQDA, G-1 Exception to Policy to correct errors on their contract executed 8 July 2020. They requested a Block 4 correction to reflect the proper date of 31 January 2020, as the contract erroneously extended beyond their original ETS. The one-year extension established a new ETS date of 30 January 2021, which required an antedated reenlistment through the GFC. The antedated reenlistment request would cover 31 January 2021 for six years, properly extending the ETS to 30 January 2027, pending GFC approval.

(4) On 4 June 2021, separation orders separating the applicant from the United States Army Reserve (USAR) effective 31 May 2021 (Verbal Orders of the Commanding General (VOCG)) under the provisions of AR 135-178 with an honorable characterization of service was issued. It was additionally noted the Soldier was held beyond normal discharge date through no fault of their own.

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:** None

(2) **AMHRR provided:** None

5. APPLICANT-PROVIDED EVIDENCE: Application for the Review of Discharge; Five Character Letters; Two Certificates of Release or Discharge from Active Duty; Exception to Policy Retention Action; Self-Authored Statement

6. POST SERVICE ACCOMPLISHMENTS: None was provided with this application.

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 135-178 (Army National Guard and Reserve Enlisted Administrative Separations) sets forth the policies, standards, and procedures, to ensure the readiness and competency of the U.S. Army while providing for the orderly administrative separation of Army National Guard and USAR enlisted Soldiers for a variety of reasons. The separation policies throughout the different Chapters in this regulation promote the readiness of the Army by providing an orderly means to judge the suitability of persons to serve on the basis of their

conduct and their ability to meet required standards of duty performance and discipline. Specific categories include minor disciplinary infractions, a pattern of misconduct, and commission of a serious offense, to include abuse of illegal drugs, and convictions by civil authorities.

(1) The possible characterizations include an honorable, general (under honorable conditions), under other than honorable conditions, or uncharacterized if the Soldier is in entry-level status. However, the permissible range of characterization varies based on the reason for separation.

(2) The characterization is based upon the quality of the Soldier's service, including the reason for separation and determination in accordance with standards of acceptable personal conduct and performance of duty as found in the UCMJ, Army regulations, and the time-honored customs and traditions of the Army. The reasons for separation, including the specific circumstances that form the basis for the discharge are considered on the issue of characterization.

f. Army Regulation 635-200 (Enlisted Administrative Separations) 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

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 "MBK" as the appropriate code to assign enlisted Soldiers who are discharged under the provisions of Army Regulation 635-200, Chapter 4, Release from Active Duty.

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. A review of the record provides administrative irregularity in the proper retention of records, specifically, the AMHRR is void of the specific facts and circumstances concerning the events which led to the discharge from the Army Reserve.

(1) An unauthenticated DD Form 214 provides the applicant was discharged under the provisions of AR 635-200, Chapter 4 for completion of required active service, with an honorable characterization of service. Discharge orders indicates they were discharged under the provisions of AR 135-178, with an honorable characterization of service. The record shows the Army acknowledged contractual and procedural errors (the applicant was erroneously allowed to reenlistment after being barred from service for receiving an RE-4 reentry code under the provisions of AR 635-200, Chapter 9, for Alcohol Rehabilitation Failure), approved an

Exception to Policy for an antedated reenlistment, and honorably discharged the applicant with acknowledging they were held beyond their separation date through no fault of their own.

(2) The applicant contends, a second chance to serve as they expressed a deep pride in their Army Service, emphasizing personal growth, dedication, and a desire to continue serving as a leader and role model within the Army. They seek another opportunity to prove their commitment and contribute positively to the organization.

b. Army Regulation 135-178 sets forth the policies, standards, and procedures, to ensure the readiness and competency of the U.S. Army while providing for the orderly administrative separation of Army National Guard and USAR enlisted Soldiers for a variety of reasons. The separation policies throughout the different Chapters in this regulation promote the readiness of the Army by providing an orderly means to judge the suitability of persons to serve on the basis of their conduct and their ability to meet required standards of duty performance and discipline. Specific categories include minor disciplinary infractions, a pattern of misconduct, and commission of a serious offense, to include abuse of illegal drugs, and convictions by civil authorities.

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? **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: NA – Applies to Personal Appearances only.

c. Response to Contention(s): The applicant contends, a second chance to serve as they expressed a deep pride in their Army Service, emphasizing personal growth, dedication, and a desire to continue serving as a leader and role model within the Army. They seek another opportunity to prove their commitment and contribute positively to the organization. Multiple character references from former leadership and colleagues, consistently described the applicant as a dedicated, hardworking Soldier with strong leadership potential, professionalism, and loyalty, who served honorably, supported peers, demonstrated resilience, and showed clear rehabilitative potential to continue military service. The Board considered the applicant's records and concurred that their current discharge is inequitable.

d. The Board determined: After being discharged from the Army originally for an alcohol rehab failure, the applicant erroneously was able to join the Army Reserves. It was considered erroneous at a later date due to the RE4 rating at the time of the original discharge. However, while serving in the Army Reserve, before being discharged, the applicant served honorably and served overseas in Korea and Poland. Ultimately, they were released from the Army Reserves as a result of the original discharge code of RE4. After applying liberal consideration, the Board voted to upgrade the original discharge to read HD, RE3, not RE4. Additionally, the Board voted to change the discharge from the Army Reserves to RE1 to allow the applicant to immediately re-enter the military per their stated desire. The Board voted unanimously, 3-0, that the discharge re-entry codes in both situations were inequitable and should be changed.

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 on their DD214 for their initial active duty period to Honorable as the applicant's continued Honorable service shows that a characterization less than honorable is not indicative of their overall service.

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

(4) The RE code will change to an Re3 on the DD214 and an Re1 on their reserve separation orders.

10. BOARD ACTION DIRECTED:

a. **Issue a New DD-214 and Separation Order:** Yes / Yes

b. **Change Characterization to:** Honorable (DD214)

c. **Change Reason / SPD code to:** No Change

d. **Change RE Code to:** Re 3 / Re 1

e. **Change Authority to:** No Change

Authenticating Official:

ARMY DISCHARGE REVIEW BOARD CASE REPORT AND DIRECTIVE

AR20220005402

1/28/2026



Legend:

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

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

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

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