

1. Applicant's Name: [REDACTED]

a. **Application Date:** 15 February 2022

b. **Date Received:** 22 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 general (under honorable conditions). The applicant requests an upgrade to honorable.

b. **Applicant Contention(s)/Issue(s):** The applicant requests relief contending, in effect, before being notified by the Commanding Officer, the applicant would be receiving a general (under honorable conditions) discharge, the applicant was undergoing Substance Use Disorder Clinical Care (SUDCC) for alcohol abuse. The applicant was also seeing the chaplain and a counselor due to family issues with the children back home.

c. **Board Type and Decision:** In a records review conducted on 19 December 2025, and by a 3-0 vote, the Board determined the discharge is inequitable based on the applicant's length and quality of service, the circumstances surrounding the discharge (Adjustment Disorder with Anxious and Depressed Mood and Anxiety Disorder). Therefore, the Board voted to grant relief in the form of an upgrade of the characterization of service to Honorable. The Board voted not to change the narrative reason, SPD code, nor Re-code finding those to be 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:** 23 June 2020

c. **Separation Facts:**

(1) **Date of Notification of Intent to Separate:** 12 May 2020

(2) **Basis for Separation:** The applicant was informed of the following reasons: For Alcohol or Other Drug Abuse Rehabilitation Failure. The applicant was enrolled in the Army SUDCC. After being afforded ample time to overcome the abuse of alcohol, on 13 January 2020, after consultation with the rehabilitation team, it was determined the applicant had not made satisfactory progress and further rehabilitative efforts were not practicable, rendering the rehabilitation a failure.

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

(4) **Legal Consultation Date:** On 12 May 2020, the applicant waived legal counsel.

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

ARMY DISCHARGE REVIEW BOARD CASE REPORT AND DIRECTIVE

AR20220005422

(6) Separation Decision Date / Characterization: 12 May 2020 / General (Under Honorable Conditions)

4. SERVICE DETAILS:

a. Date / Period of Reenlistment Under Review: 1 May 2018 / 4 years

b. Age at Enlistment / Education / GT Score: 26 / High School Graduate / 95

c. Highest Grade Achieved / MOS / Total Service: E-4 / 19D10, Calvary Scout / 4 years, 5 months, 16 days

d. Prior Service / Characterizations: RA, 23 February 2016 – 30 April 2018 / HD

e. Overseas Service / Combat Service: None

f. Awards and Decorations: AGCM, NDSM, ASR

g. Performance Ratings: NA

h. Disciplinary Action(s) / Evidentiary Record:

(1) Army Substance Abuse Program (ASAP) Enrollment Form, 30 December 2019, indicates the applicant was command referred into the program.

(2) Commander's Report, 12 May 2020, indicates the applicant was enrolled in the SUDCC. After being afforded ample time to overcome the abuse of alcohol, on 13 January 2020, after consultation with the rehabilitation team, the commander determined the applicant had not made satisfactory progress and further rehabilitative efforts were not practicable, rendering the rehabilitation a failure.

(3) Two Developmental Counseling Forms for an altercation in the barracks and being flagged for involuntary 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: None

(2) AMHRR Listed: Report of Mental Status Evaluation (MSE), 13 January 2020, indicates the applicant demonstrated the ability to understand and participate in administrative proceedings, and appreciated the difference between right and wrong. The applicant was diagnosed with Severe Alcohol Use Disorder.

5. APPLICANT-PROVIDED EVIDENCE: Application for Correction of Military Record.

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.

(2) 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.

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 evidence of the Army Military Human Resource Record (AMHRR) indicates on 13 January 2020, after consultation with the rehabilitation team, the commander determined the applicant had not made satisfactory progress and further rehabilitative efforts were not practicable, rendering the rehabilitation a failure. The applicant was notified of the intent to discharge them from the U.S. Army for Alcohol Rehabilitation Failure. The applicant waived consulting counsel and representation by military counsel and was involuntarily discharged from the U.S. Army. The DD Form 214 provides the applicant was discharged with a character of service of general (under honorable conditions) for Alcohol Rehabilitation Failure.

c. The applicant contends before being notified by the Commanding Officer, they would be receiving a general (under honorable conditions) discharge, undergoing SUDCC for alcohol abuse. The applicant did not submit evidence other than their statement to support the contention the discharge resulted from any medical condition. The AMHRR shows the applicant underwent a mental status evaluation (MSE) on 13 January 2020, which indicates the applicant demonstrated the ability to understand and participate in administrative proceedings and appreciated the difference between right and wrong. The applicant was diagnosed with Severe Alcohol Use Disorder. The separation authority considered the MSE.

d. The applicant contends family issues influenced their behavior and ultimately led to their discharge. The applicant provided no supporting evidence beyond their statement. The AMHRR contains no indication the applicant sought assistance before engaging in the misconduct, which resulted in the separation action under review

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 with Anxious and Depressed Mood, Anxiety Disorder, and Alcohol Dependence.

(2) Did the condition exist or experience occur during military service? **Yes.** Adjustment Disorder with Anxious and Depressed Mood, Anxiety 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 the anxiety existed prior to the alcohol dependence and nexus between anxiety and substance use, the basis is mitigated.

(4) Does the condition or experience outweigh the discharge? **Yes.** Based on liberally considering all the evidence before the Board, the ADRB determined that the condition or experience outweighed the basis of separation.

b. Prior Decisions Cited: None

c. Response to Contention(s):

(1) The applicant contends before being notified by the Commanding Officer, they would be receiving a general (under honorable conditions) discharge, undergoing SUDCC for alcohol abuse. The applicant contends family issues influenced their behavior and ultimately led to their discharge. The Board determined that the applicant's BH issues mitigated the applicant's failure to complete rehab and voted to upgrade the characterization of service to Honorable.

d. The Board determined: The Board carefully considered the applicant's request, supporting documents, evidence in the records, a medical review, and published Department of Defense guidance for liberal consideration of discharge upgrade requests. The Board concurred with the conclusion of the medical advising official that the applicant's medical diagnosis (Adjustment Disorder with Anxious and Depressed Mood, Anxiety Disorder, and Alcohol Dependence) mitigates the basis of separation (rehabilitation failure) and warrants a change to the characterization of separation. The Board voted to retain the narrative reason, separation code, and reentry code as they were found proper and equitable.

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 medical diagnosis of Adjustment Disorder with Anxious and Depressed Mood, Anxiety Disorder, and Alcohol Dependence mitigates the basis of separation (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 as the reason the applicant was discharged was both proper and equitable.

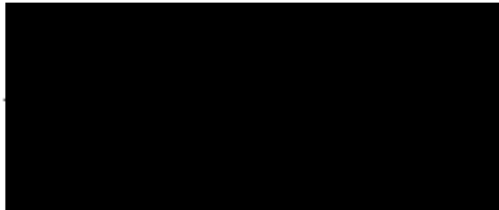
(4) The RE code will not change, as the current code is consistent with the procedural and substantive requirements of the regulation.

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:

1/6/2026



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