

1. Applicant's Name: [REDACTED]**a. Application Date:** 18 March 2022**b. Date Received:** 24 March 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 uncharacterized. The applicant requests an upgrade to honorable.

b. Applicant Contention(s)/Issue(s): The applicant requests relief contending, in effect, the command provided information confirming an upcoming honorable discharge.

c. Board Type and Decision: In a records review conducted on 17 March 2026, and by a 3-0 vote, the Board denied the request upon finding the separation was both proper and equitable. However, notwithstanding the propriety of the applicant's discharge, the Board found that the applicant's DD Form 214, block 24 contains an erroneous entry the characterization of service should be Honorable for reservists completing initial active-duty training. The Board directed the following administrative corrections and reissue of the applicant's DD Form 214, Block 24 characterization should be Honorable. 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: Completion of Required Active Service / Self Terminating Orders / NA / NA / Uncharacterized

b. Date of Discharge: 17 July 2008

c. Separation Facts: The applicant's Army Military Human Resource Record (AMHRR) is void of the case separation file.

(1) **Date of Notification of Intent to Separate:** None

(2) **Basis for Separation:** None

(3) **Recommended Characterization:** None

(4) **Legal Consultation Date:** None

(5) **Administrative Separation Board:** None

(6) **Separation Decision Date / Characterization:** None

4. SERVICE DETAILS:

a. Date / Period of Enlistment / Reenlistment Under Review: 12 February 2008 / 8 years

b. Age at Enlistment / Education / GT Score: 36 / High School Graduate / NIF

c. Highest Grade Achieved / MOS / Total Service: NIF / 68G1O, Patient Administration Specialist / 5 months, 6 days

d. Prior Service / Characterizations: None

e. Overseas Service / Combat Service: None

f. Awards and Decorations: NDSM, ASR

g. Performance Ratings: NA

(1) Disciplinary Action(s) / Evidentiary Record: The applicant's DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty), indicates the applicant was transferred to DET1 USAREC 807 MDSM (WNF6R1) Seagoville TX 75115-000.

h. Lost Time / Mode of Return: None

i. 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: None

5. APPLICANT-PROVIDED EVIDENCE: Application for Correction of Military Record; Chronological Statement of Retirement Points.

6. POST SERVICE ACCOMPLISHMENTS: None were 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.

(1) 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 waivable. Eligibility: Ineligible unless a waiver is granted.

- RE-4 Applies to: Person separated from last period of service with a nonwaivable 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) Paragraph 3-9a(3) states a separation will be described as entry-level with service uncharacterized if processing is initiated while a Soldier is in entry-level status, except when a Soldier is on active duty with less than 181 days of continuous active military service, has completed IET, has been awarded an MOS, and has reported for duty at a follow-on unit of assignment (see para 11-3c). RC Soldiers will receive a characterization of service as "honorable" upon successful completion of IET.

(d) Chapter 4, establishes the policies and procedures for separating a Soldier upon expiration of enlistment or fulfillment of service obligation. The periods of military service required of all Army Soldiers will be in accordance with applicable laws. Periods for which enlistment is authorized are in NGR 600-200, AR 140-111, and AR 601-210. Periods for which Soldiers are ordered to AD are prescribed by law. Soldier enlisted or ordered to AD normally will be discharged or released from AD on the date he/she completes the period for which enlisted or ordered to AD. Personnel released from AD and transferred to the USAR upon completion of the term of service for which ordered into active Federal service, or released to their Reserve Component upon completion of AD. These Soldiers will not be discharged until completion of their reserve obligation. Paragraph 4-5, states, a Soldier being separated upon expiration of enlistment or fulfillment of service obligation will be awarded a character of service of honorable, unless the Soldier is in entry-level status and service is uncharacterized.

(2) Glossary defines entry-level status for RA Soldiers is the first 180 days of continuous AD or the first 180 days of continuous AD following a break of more than 92 days of active military service. For ARNGUS and USAR Soldiers, entry-level status begins upon enlistment in the ARNG or USAR. For Soldiers ordered to IADT for one continuous period, it

terminates 180 days after beginning training. For Soldiers ordered to IADT for the split or alternate training option, it terminates 90 days after beginning Phase II advanced individual training (AIT). (Soldiers completing Phase I BT or basic combat training remain in entry-level status until 90 days after beginning Phase II

h. Army Regulation 635-5 (Separation Documents), in effect at the time, prescribed the separation documents that must be prepared for soldiers on retirement, discharge, release from active-duty service, or control of the Active Army. It established standardized policy for preparing and distributing the DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty).

(1) Paragraph 2-4h (25), Separation Authority, states obtain correct entry from regulatory or directives authorizing the separation. For a Soldier ordered to active-duty training (ADT) and active-duty special work (ADSW) by self-terminating orders, enter "SELF-TERMINATING ORDERS, (ORDER NUMBER, COURSE AND DATE)."

(2) Paragraph 2-4h (26), Separation Code, states obtain correct entry from AR 635-5-1, which provides the corresponding separation program designator code for the regulatory authority and reason for separation. Normally, when block 25 contains self-terminating orders, enter "NA." However, this could differ for an RC soldier ordered to active duty to support a contingency operation –specific guidance will be provided at the announcement of the contingency operation.

(3) Paragraph 2-4h (27), Reentry Code, states AR 601-210 determines RA and USAR reentry eligibility and provides regulatory guidance on the RE codes. These codes are not applicable to officers, USMA cadets who fail to graduate or enter USMA from active-duty status, or to RC soldiers being separated for other than cause.

(4) Paragraph 2-4h (28), Narrative Reason for Separation. This is based on regulatory or other authority and can be checked against the cross reference in AR 635-5-1. For Soldiers ordered to Active-Duty Training, Active Guard Reserve, Temporary Tours of Active duty, Full Time National Guard Duty, or Active Duty for Special Work on self-terminating orders, enter "COMPLETION OF PERIOD OF ADT, AGR, TTAD, FTNGD , or ADSW," as appropriate.

i. Army Regulation 635-8 (Separation Processing and Documents), prescribes the transition processing function of the military personnel system. It supersedes and consolidates AR 635-5, AR 635-10, and DA Pam 600-8-11. This regulation provides principles of support, standards of service, policies, tasks, rules, and steps governing required actions in the field to support processing personnel for separation and preparation of separation documents.

(1) Chapter 5 prescribes when to prepare separation documents. The DD Form 214 is a summary of the Soldier's most recent period of continuous active duty. It provides a brief, clear-cut record of all current active, prior active, and prior inactive duty service at the time of REFRAD, retirement, or discharge. The DD Form 214 is not intended to have any legal effect on termination of a Soldier's service.

(2) Chapter 5-6 aa, states Army Regulation 601-210, (Regular Army and Reserve Components Enlistment Program) determines reentry eligibility and provides regulatory guidance on reentry codes. These codes are not applicable to officers, USMA cadets who fail to graduate, or to RC Soldiers being separated for other than cause.

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's Army Military Human Resources Record (AMHRR) is void of the specific facts and circumstances concerning the events leading to the discharge from the Army. The applicant's AMHRR includes a properly constituted DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty), which was authenticated by the applicant's electronic signature. The applicant's DD Form 214 indicates the applicant was discharged under the provisions of AR 635-200, Chapter 4, by reason of "Completion of Required Active Service," with a characterization of service of uncharacterized.

c. The applicant contends separation under Entry Level Status (ELS) is inappropriate and should have received an honorable discharge. The evidence of the Army Military Human Resource Record (AMHRR) reflects the applicant entered Initial Active-Duty Training on 18 March 2008 for 16 weeks. At the time of the applicant's discharge, the applicant had served 4 months on Active Duty. The applicant's AMHRR reflects no acts of misconduct or derogatory information. Upon the applicant's separation from Active Duty, the applicant transferred to the ARNG of TX to serve the remaining service obligation. At the time of the applicant's discharge, the DD Form 214 reflects the applicant having an MOS. Paragraph 3-9a (3) states a Soldier with less than 181 days of continuous active military service, who had completed Initial Entry Training, had been awarded a MOS, and had reported for duty at a follow-on unit of assignment is an exception to being described as entry-level status, with an uncharacterized discharge and will be discharged with an honorable characterization.

d. The applicant contends the command provided information confirming an upcoming honorable discharge. The applicant did not submit evidence other than their statement to support the contention. The AMHRR does not indicate or provide evidence of arbitrary or capricious actions by the command.

9. BOARD DISCUSSION AND DETERMINATION:

a. As directed by the 2017 memo signed by A.M. Kurta, the board considered the following factors:

(3) 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.

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

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

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

b. Prior Decisions Cited: None

c. Response to Contention(s):

(1) The applicant contends separation under Entry Level Status (ELS) is inappropriate and should have received an honorable discharge. The Board recognizes this contention and voted to update characterization.

d. The Board determined: The Board found an error in the applicant's DD214, current regulations direct an Honorable characterization of service for reservists completing initial entry training. Thus, the current characterization is an error.

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 reason for discharge because, although the Board found the discharge proper and equitable, it was found that there was an administrative error on the applicant's DD Form 214, thus making the current characterization for discharge improper. The corrected characterization is Honorable.

(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.

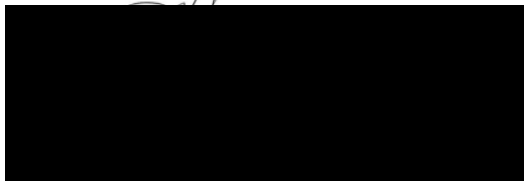
(4) The RE code will not change, as the current code is consistent with the procedural and substantive requirements of the regulation.

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:

3/25/2026



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