

1. Applicant's Name: [REDACTED]**a. Application Date:** 28 February 2022**b. Date Received:** 7 March 2022**c. Counsel:** [REDACTED]**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, through counsel, requests an upgrade to honorable, a narrative reason change, a separation code change, and a reentry eligibility code change.

b. Applicant Contention(s)/Issue(s): The applicant requests relief contending, in effect the applicant's petition qualifies for liberal consideration because of the applicant's service-connected post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and traumatic brain injury (TBI). The applicant's military medical records show following the applicant's return from a deployment in which the applicant was exposed to combat, the applicant's anxiety disorder and alcohol abuse disorder developed. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical records show mental health providers and physicians diagnosed the applicant with combat-related PTSD and TBI and linked the applicant's use of alcohol directly to the applicant's PTSD. The applicant entered active duty on 13 March 2006 and was discharged on 21 May 2009. The applicant served in Iraq for 14 months and 16 days and was awarded the Iraq Campaign Medal with Campaign Star and the Combat Infantryman Badge. The applicant describes the traumatic events experienced in Iraq, including encountering small arms fire, other indirect fire, and improvised explosive devices on a daily basis. The applicant witnessed the deaths of several close friend, and along with other Soldiers, had to police the dead remains to send home. The applicant is haunted by the memories the Soldiers inflicted on the Iraqi families because the team was required to take over the families' homes in the middle of the night. The Department of Defense has repeatedly issued guidance to emphasize the seriousness of service-connected PTSD and TBI, as well as the DoD's commitment to providing appropriate relief to veterans who have been discharged for alleged misconduct stemming from PTSD and TBI. The VA rated the applicant 50 percent disabled for PTSD. Other than the applicant's use of alcohol to cope with PTSD, the command cited nothing about the applicant's military record which reflects anything less than honorable service. The general (under honorable condition) discharge is too harsh an outcome when the sole basis for separation is the applicant's coping mechanism for combat-related PTSD. The mitigating factors overwhelmingly outweigh any aggravating factor. There is no issue of misconduct in this matter. The applicant was unable to meet the requirements of the Army's program to treat alcohol abuse. The applicant's use of alcohol was a youthful indiscretion, a lack of understanding of the symptoms of PTSD and the dangers of self-medicating with alcohol. The request is the only remedy for the applicant to receive the benefits earned through nearly four years of service. The applicant needs their education benefits to help expand their options as a civilian, where the applicant experiences daily interactions with the effects of combat-related PTSD and TBI. The letters of support attest to the applicant's good character and reputation over the years. Since the applicant's discharge, the applicant has worked diligently to rebuild their life, including a career as an emergency medical services technician and volunteers as a firefighter. Counsel and the applicant further detail the contentions in two Legal Briefs and a self-authored statement, respectively.

c. Board Type and Decision: In a records review conducted on 18 March 2026, and by a 3-0 vote, the Board determined the discharge is inequitable based on the applicant's PTSD mitigating ASAP failure. Therefore, the Board voted to grant relief in the form of an upgrade of the characterization of service to Honorable, the narrative reason for separation to Misconduct (Minor Infractions), with a corresponding separation code of JKN. 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-3 / General (Under Honorable Conditions)

b. Date of Discharge: 31 May 2009

c. Separation Facts:

(1) Date of Notification of Intent to Separate: 3 January 2009 / The date of the Notification memorandum is 3 February 2009; therefore, it appears the applicant entered the wrong month on the Acknowledgment.

(2) Basis for Separation: The applicant was informed of the following reasons: The applicant failed the Army Substance Abuse Program.

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

(4) Legal Consultation Date: 18 February 2009

(5) Administrative Separation Board: NA

(6) Separation Decision Date / Characterization: Undated / General (Under Honorable Conditions)

4. SERVICE DETAILS:

a. Date / Period of Enlistment: 13 March 2006 / 3 years, 19 weeks

b. Age at Enlistment / Education / GT Score: 20 / HS Graduate / 101

c. Highest Grade Achieved / MOS / Total Service: E-4 / 11B1O, Infantryman / 3 years, 2 months, 18 days

d. Prior Service / Characterizations: None

e. Overseas Service / Combat Service: SWA / Iraq (14 January 2007 – 29 March 2008)

f. Awards and Decorations: ARCOM, NDSM, GWOTSM, ICM-CS, ASR, OSR, CIB

g. Performance Ratings: NA

h. Disciplinary Action(s) / Evidentiary Record:

(1) Army Substance Abuse Program (ASAP) Enrollment Form (page 1), date unavailable, indicates the applicant self-referred into the program for alcohol because the police were called to the residence for disruptiveness.

(2) Summary of Army Substance Abuse Program Rehabilitation Efforts memorandum, 6 January 2009, reflects the applicant was self-referred to the ASAP for evaluation on 17 September 2008. The applicant's rehabilitation team met and determined the applicant continued to have social and interpersonal problems associated with the applicant's substance abuse. Further rehabilitation efforts were considered impractical. Discharge from military service should be effected.

(3) Two Developmental Counseling Forms document instances of the applicant being late to formation, failing to maintain positive control of privately owned vehicle, failing to ensure basic Soldier responsibilities, failing to go at the appointed place of duty at the time prescribed, being absent without leave, being disruptive at their residence, and being drunk on duty.

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:**

(a) Medical Record, between 21 December 2006 and 7 October 2008, reflects the applicant was, among other medical conditions, diagnosed with alcohol dependence, depression, adjustment disorder with anxiety,

(b) Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) Progress Notes, between 18 and 20 November 2010, reflects the applicant was diagnosed with chronic PTSD and alcohol abuse, in early remission.

(c) Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center Consult Requests TBI Screening Result, 21 October 2014, reflects the medical provider indicated there was a history of the injury and course of clinical symptoms consistent with a diagnosis of TBI sustained during deployment. In the providers clinical judgement, the clinical symptom presentation was most consistent with a deployment related TBI residual problems.

(d) Department of Veterans Affairs letter, 24 October 2022, indicates the applicant received a 50 percent disability rating for PTSD, 10 percent for right knee instability status post-surgery, 10 percent for tinnitus. The VA indicated the applicant received 0 percent for traumatic brain injury and bilateral hearing loss and they were not service-connected disabilities.

(2) **AMHRR Listed:** Report of Medical History, 30 December 2008, reflects the examining physician assistant noted in the comments section: Headaches daily, associated with anxiety, and anxiety issues and problems sleeping, seen by Behavioral Health.

5. APPLICANT-PROVIDED EVIDENCE: Enlistment/Reenlistment Document Armed Forces of the United States; Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty; Application for the Review of Discharge; two legal briefs; self-authored statement; VAMC medical documents, VA letter; four character references; four photographs; and Army Review Boards letter.

6. POST SERVICE ACCOMPLISHMENTS: The applicant maintains employment as an emergency medical services responder, volunteers as a firefighter, is scheduled to graduate with a degree in computer science and mathematics and is actively pursuing treatment for their mental illness.

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 600-85 (The Army Substance Abuse Program) Headquarters Department defines the Limited Use Policy and states unless waived under the circumstances listed in paragraph 10-13d, Limited Use Policy prohibits the use by the government of protected evidence against a Soldier in actions under the UCMJ or on the issue of characterization of service in administrative proceedings. Additionally, the policy limits the characterization of discharge to "Honorable" if protected evidence is used. Protected evidence under this policy includes a Soldier's self-referral to BH for SUD treatment.

g. 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.

h. 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.

(a) Paragraph 9-4 stipulates the service of Soldiers discharged under this section will be characterized as honorable or under honorable conditions unless the Soldier is in entry-level status and an uncharacterized description of service is required.

(b) An honorable discharge is mandated in any case in which the Government initially introduces into the final discharge process limited use evidence as defined by AR 600-85.

i. 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, a narrative reason change, a separation code change, and a reentry eligibility code change. 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 the unit commander, in consultation with the Clinical Director/Army Substance Abuse Program (ASAP), declared the applicant a rehabilitation failure. The applicant continued to have social and interpersonal problems associated with the applicant's substance abuse. Further rehabilitation efforts were considered impractical. The applicant's immediate commander initiated separation because the applicant failed the Army Substance Abuse Program. The immediate and intermediate commanders recommended a general (under honorable conditions) character of service and the separation authority approved the recommendations.

c. The applicant's separation packet includes page 1 of an ASAP Enrollment form, revealing the applicant self-referred to the Army Substance Abuse Program (ASAP) for substance abuse treatment. The Summary of Army Substance Abuse Program Rehabilitation Efforts memorandum, 6 January 2009, supports the information on the enrollment form, indicating the applicant was self-referred in ASAP. The government incorporated these documents into the discharge process. AR 600-85 defines Protected evidence under this policy, including a Soldier's self-referral to BH for SUD treatment, as limited-use information. Regulations mandate use of this information might require awarding an honorable discharge.

While ARBA would normally confirm with a legal opine on whether there was a violation of limited use, due to the upgrade being granted that step is unnecessary with this case.

d. Based on the applicant's AMHRR, someone in the discharge process erroneously entered "3" as the reentry code on the applicant's DD Form 214, block 27. The discharge packet confirms the separation authority approved the discharge due to alcohol rehabilitation failure, with a general (under honorable conditions) characterization of service. Army Regulation 601-210 (Regular Army and Reserve Components Enlistment Program) establishes eligibility criteria, policies, and procedures for enlistment in the Regular Army, U.S. Army Reserve, and Army National Guard, in accordance with DODI 1304.26. Chapter 4 states a person with PS last discharged from any component of the Armed Forces for drug or alcohol abuse or as rehabilitation failure during last period of service is a non-waivable disqualification, meaning the applicant is no longer eligible for reenlistment. The correct reentry code for non-waivable disqualifications is "4."

e. The applicant contends:

(1) The applicant was diagnosed with PTSD, TBI, and other mental health conditions, which led to the discharge, and the VA rated the applicant 50 percent disabled for PTSD. The applicant provided several medical documents indicating a diagnosis of PTSD, alcohol dependence, depression, and adjustment disorder with anxiety. The VA rated the applicant 50 percent service-connected disabled for PTSD. The applicant was evaluated for TBI. The VA rated the applicant 0 percent disabled for TBI and considered the condition non-service connected. The AMHRR contains a Report of Medical History, 30 December 2008, reflecting the examining physician assistant noted in the comments section: Headaches daily, associated with anxiety, and anxiety issues and problems sleeping, seen by Behavioral Health. The AMHRR is void of a mental status evaluation. The separation authority considered the Report of Medical History.

(2) Youth and immaturity influenced the applicant's behavior at the time of discharge. However, the AMHRR confirms the applicant met entrance qualification standards, including age.

(3) The Army should change the narrative reason to Secretarial Authority. The applicant was separated under the provisions of Chapter 9, AR 635-200 with a general (under honorable conditions) discharge. The narrative reason specified by Army Regulations for a discharge under this paragraph is "alcohol rehabilitation failure," and the separation code is "JPD." Army Regulation 635-8 (Separation Processing and Documents) governs preparation of the DD Form 214 and dictates the entry of the narrative reason for separation, entered in block 28 and separation code, entered in block 26 of the form, will be as listed in tables 2-2 or 2-3 of AR 635-5-1 (Separation Program Designator (SPD) Codes). The regulation stipulates no deviation is authorized. There is no provision for any other reason to be entered under this regulation.

(4) The Army should change the Separation Program Designator (SPD) code. SPD codes consist of three alphabetic characters that identify the reason and type of a service member's separation from active duty. The Department of Defense (DoD) and the Military Services use SPD codes exclusively for internal purposes to collect and analyze separation data. The Office of the Secretary of Defense oversees these codes and implements them through Army policy AR 635-5-1 to monitor various types of separations. For a discharge under Chapter 9, due to "alcohol rehabilitation failure," Army Regulations designate the SPD code is "JPD."

(5) The applicant requests a change to the reentry eligibility (RE) code. Soldiers processed for separation receive reentry codes based on their service records or discharge reasons. Army Regulation 601-210 assigns the applicant an RE code. An RE Code of "3" requires a waiver before reenlistment. Recruiters can provide the best guidance on the Army's current needs and determine whether processing a waiver is appropriate.

(6) The applicant provided good service, including a combat tour. The Board evaluated the applicant's service accomplishments and overall quality of service in accordance with DODI 1332.28.

(7) The applicant maintains employment as an emergency medical services responder, volunteers as a firefighter, is scheduled to graduate with a degree in computer science and mathematics and is actively pursuing treatment for their mental illness. The Army Discharge Review Board has the authority to consider post-service factors when reviewing discharge recharacterization requests. However, no law or regulation permits upgrading an unfavorable discharge solely due to time passed or good conduct in civilian life. The Board evaluates each case individually to determine whether post-service achievements indicate previous in-service misconduct was an anomaly rather than a reflection of the applicant's overall character.

(8) The applicant contends an upgrade would provide access to educational benefits through the GI Bill. Eligibility for veterans' benefits, including Post-9/11 or Montgomery GI Bill educational assistance, does not fall under the purview of the Army Discharge Review Board. The applicant should contact a local Department of Veterans Affairs office for further assistance.

(9) The third-party statements provided with the application speak highly of the applicant. They all recognize the applicant's good military service and/or good conduct after leaving the Army.

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/experiences: Alcohol Dependence, PTSD, Alcohol Abuse. Additionally, the applicant asserts PTSD and TBI, which may be sufficient evidence to establish the existence of a condition that could mitigate or excuse the discharge.

(2) Did the condition exist or experience occur during military service? **Yes.** The Board's Medical Advisor found the applicant is 70% service connected for PTSD.

(3) Does the condition or experience actually excuse or mitigate the discharge? **Yes.** The Board's Medical Advisor applied liberal consideration and opined that there is a mitigating BH condition – PTSD. Given the nexus between PTSD and substance use, there is sufficient evidence to support medical mitigation.

(4) Does the condition or experience outweigh the discharge? **Yes.** The Board concurred with the opinion of the Board's Medical Advisor, a voting member. As a result, the ADRB applied liberal consideration and found that the applicant's PTSD outweighed the ASAP failure for the aforementioned reason(s).

b. Prior Decisions Cited: N/A

c. Response to Contention(s):

(1) The applicant contends being diagnosed with PTSD, TBI, and other mental health conditions, which led to the discharge, and the VA rated the applicant 50 percent disabled for PTSD. The Board considered this contention and determined that relief was warranted due to the applicant's PTSD mitigating the applicant's ASAP failure.

(2) The applicant contends youth and immaturity influenced the applicant's behavior at the time of discharge. The Board considered this contention during proceedings, but ultimately did not address the contention due to an upgrade being granted based on the applicant's PTSD mitigating the applicant's ASAP failure.

(3) The applicant contends the Army should change the narrative reason to Secretarial Authority. The Board considered this contention but determined the evidence on file did not support it. While the applicant's PTSD mitigated the misconduct, it did not fully excuse it. There is insufficient evidence in the medical records or service record to warrant requested relief.

(4) The applicant requests a change to the reentry eligibility (RE) code. The Board considered this contention but determined no relief is warranted, as the mitigating condition is service-limiting. In addition, regulatory requirements list the appropriate RE-code for the ASAP failure as RE-4. During the discharge process someone erroneously entered a RE-3, but the ADRB does not adjust records to make applicant's discharges downgraded on any account, so the RE-3 will remain, which is a waivable code. An RE Code of "3" indicates the applicant requires a waiver before being allowed to reenlist. Recruiters can best advise a former service member as to the Army's needs at the time and are required to process waivers of reentry eligibility (RE) codes, if appropriate.

(5) The applicant contends good service, including a combat tour. The Board considered this contention during proceedings, but ultimately did not address the contention due to an upgrade being granted based on the applicant's PTSD mitigating the applicant's ASAP failure.

(6) The applicant contends maintaining employment as an emergency medical services responder, volunteering as a firefighter, being scheduled to graduate with a degree in computer science and mathematics and actively pursuing treatment for their mental illness.

(7) The applicant contends an upgrade would provide access to educational benefits through the GI Bill. The Board considered this contention and determined that eligibility for Veteran's benefits, to include educational benefits under the Post-9/11 or Montgomery GI Bill, do not fall within the purview of the Army Discharge Review Board. Accordingly, the applicant should contact a local office of the Department of Veterans Affairs for further assistance. In addition, the Board does not grant relief solely to enable these benefits or to gain employment or enhance employment opportunities barring some other impropriety or inequity in the discharge process.

d. The Board determined the discharge is inequitable based on the applicant's PTSD mitigating ASAP failure. Therefore, the Board voted to grant relief in the form of an upgrade of the characterization of service to Honorable, the narrative reason for separation to Misconduct (Minor Infractions), with a corresponding separation code of JKN. The applicant has exhausted

their appeal options available with ADRB. However, the applicant may still apply to the Army Board for Correction of Military Records. The applicant is responsible for satisfying the burden of proof and providing documents or other evidence sufficient to support the applicant's contention(s) that the discharge was improper or inequitable.

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 PTSD mitigated the applicant's misconduct ASAP failure. Thus, the prior characterization is no longer appropriate.

(3) The Board voted to change the reason for discharge to Misconduct (Minor Infractions) under the same pretexts, thus the reason for discharge is no longer appropriate. The SPD code associated with the new reason for discharge is JKN.

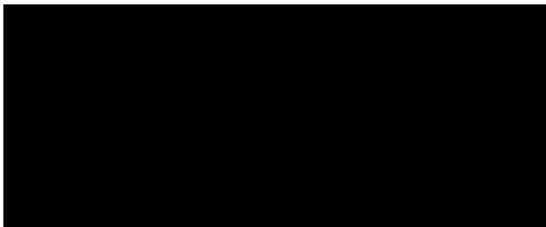
(4) The RE code will not change, as the mitigating condition is service limiting.

10. BOARD ACTION DIRECTED:

- a. Issue a New DD-214: Yes**
- b. Change Characterization to: Honorable**
- c. Change Reason / SPD Code to: Misconduct (Minor Infractions)/JKN**
- d. Change RE Code to: No Change**
- e. Change Authority to: AR 635-200**

Authenticating Official:

3/24/2026



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

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

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

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