

1. Applicant's Name: [REDACTED]**a. Application Date:** 3 March 2022**b. Date Received:** 7 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 honorable. The applicant requests a separation code change, a reenry code change, and a narrative reason change.

b. Applicant Contention(s)/Issue(s): The applicant requests relief, contending in effect the unit engaged in unfair targeting while the applicant was experiencing significant personal hardship, including divorce, the loss of a parent, stop-loss beyond the ETS date, and first responder-related PTSD. The applicant states being prevented from submitting a flight warrant officer packet or reenlisting, and after returning from two deployments to South America was transferred to a rear detachment where targeting continued. The applicant further contends being falsely accused of misconduct without evidence, resulting in hospitalization, and asserts the unit attempted to impose a two-year deployment as punishment for being selected for prior missions.

c. Board Type and Decision: In a records review conducted on 17 February 2026, and by a 3-0 vote, the Board denied the request upon finding the characterization of service being both proper and equitable. However, based on the applicant's length and quality of service, the circumstances surrounding the discharge the use of alcohol is mitigated by PTSD and records indicate the applicant overcame the addiction, the Board determined the narrative reason for the applicant's separation is now improper. Therefore, the Board directed the issue of a new DD Form 214 changing the narrative reason for separation to Misconduct (Minor Infractions), and the separation code to 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-4 / Honorable

b. Date of Discharge: 28 May 2008**c. Separation Facts:**

(1) Date of Notification of Intent to Separate: 6 May 2008

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

(3) Recommended Characterization: Honorable

(4) Legal Consultation Date: 6 May 2008

(5) Administrative Separation Board: NA

(6) Separation Decision Date / Characterization: 18 May 2008 / Honorable

4. SERVICE DETAILS:

a. Date / Period of Enlistment Under Review: 2 September 2003 / 4 years

b. Age at Enlistment / Education / GT Score: 19 / GED / 110

c. Highest Grade Achieved / MOS / Total Service: E-5 / 25Q2O 7D, Multichannel Transmission Systems Operator-Maintainer / 4 years, 8 months, 27 days / The applicant was retained in service for 270 days for the convenience of the government per MILPER stop loss msg 06-232.

d. Prior Service / Characterizations: None

e. Overseas Service / Combat Service: Korea / None

f. Awards and Decorations: AAM, AGCM, NDSM, GWOTSM, KDSM, ASR, OSR

g. Performance Ratings: 1 November 2007 – 28 May 2008 / Poor

h. Disciplinary Action(s) / Evidentiary Record:

(1) Individual Sick Slip, 12 December 2007, reflects the applicant went to sick call due to drowsiness and lethargy from medication.

(2) Receipt for Inmate or Detained Person form, 19 March 2008, reflects the applicant was detained for driving under the influence (D.U.I) and failure to maintain lane. The applicant was released in apparent good health with no apparent injuries.

(3) Notice of the Suspension of On-Post Driving Privileges for Intoxicated or Impaired Driving letter, 19 March 2008, reflects the applicant's on-post driving privileges on post were suspended for one-year effective 28 March 2008 because the applicant drove while intoxicated or impaired.

(4) Summary of Army Substance Abuse Program Rehabilitation Failure (memo), 21 March 2008, reflects the applicant's rehabilitation team met on 21 March 2008, and determined the applicant had been declared a rehabilitation failure. The applicant was given the diagnosis of alcohol dependence.

(5) Department of the Army, Headquarters, U.S. Army Signal Center memorandum, subject reprimand, reflects the applicant was reprimanded for driving under the influence of alcohol. The applicant was stopped on the side of the road when an officer made contact and an order of alcohol was smelled coming from the vehicle. The applicant was given a series of field sobriety test. The applicant was administered a breathalyzer resulting in a reading of .111 percent blood alcohol content (B.A.C)

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: VA Rating Decision Letter, 20 September 2021, reflects the applicant received 50 percent service-connected disability rating for posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

(2) AMHRR Listed: Report of Medical History form, 31 March 2008, reflects in section 29 the applicant reported being treated three times for migraines, anxiety, and depression while on a deployment to Panama.

5. APPLICANT-PROVIDED EVIDENCE: Application for the Review of Discharge; VA Rating Decision Letter.

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 their 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.

(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.

(3) 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 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

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 a reentry code change, a separation code change, and a narrative reason 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 on 21 March 2008, the unit commander, in consultation with the Clinical Director/Army Substance Abuse Program (ASAP), declared the applicant a rehabilitation failure. The applicant did not have the potential for continued military service because the need for medication management and length of treatment exceeded what was available in the Active Duty Army.

c. The applicant contends the Army should change the narrative reason. 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.

d. The applicant contends 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."

e. The applicant contends the unit engaged in unfair targeting while the applicant was experiencing significant personal hardship, including divorce, the loss of a parent, stop-loss beyond the ETS date, and first responder related PTSD. The applicant contends harassment and discrimination by members of the chain of command. However, the applicant provided no supporting evidence beyond their statement. The AMHRR includes no evidence the applicant sought assistance or reported the harassment.

f. The applicant contends being falsely accused of misconduct without evidence, resulting in hospitalization, and asserts the unit attempted to impose a two-year deployment as punishment for being selected for two prior missions to South America. The applicant provided no supporting evidence beyond 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:

(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: PTSD, GAD, MDD, Adjustment Disorder

(2) Did the condition exist or experience occur during military service? **Yes.** The Applicant is 80% SC with 50% SC for PTSD (April 2020).

(3) Does the condition or experience actually excuse or mitigate the discharge? **Yes.** The Board applied liberal consideration and opined that the applicant asserts that the misconduct was directly related to a diagnosis of “first responder-related PTSD.” Applicant is 80% SC with 50% SC for PTSD (April 2020). Given the nexus between substance abuse, avoidance, and PTSD, the applicant’s misconduct is medically 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 PTSD outweighed rehabilitation failure.

b. Prior Decisions Cited: None

c. Response to Contention(s):

(1) The applicant contends the unit engaged in unfair targeting while the applicant was experiencing significant personal hardship, including divorce, the loss of a parent, stop-loss beyond the ETS date, and first responder related PTSD. The Board liberally considered this contention and determined that it was valid due to the applicant’s Post Traumatic Stress Disorder outweighing the applicant’s Rehabilitation failure. Therefore, a discharge upgrade is warranted.

(2) The applicant contends being falsely accused of misconduct without evidence, resulting in hospitalization, and asserts the unit attempted to impose a two-year deployment as punishment for being selected for two prior missions to South America. 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 Post Traumatic Stress Disorder outweighing the applicant’s Rehabilitation failure.

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 (PTSD) mitigates the basis of separation (Failing ASAP) and warrants a change to the narrative reason for separation to Misconduct (Minor Infractions), with a separation code of JKN. However, the reentry code will not change. Based on a preponderance of evidence, the Board determined that the reason for the applicant's separation was inequitable. The Board raised an issue and discussed the applicant's length and quality of service. The applicant was provided a chance for in-patient alcohol rehabilitation and turned it down. The DUI is mitigated, and so the Board decided to support the applicant's requested narrative reason change.

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 current characterization of service is Honorable, there is no further relief available with respect to characterization.

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(3) The Board voted to change the reason for discharge to Misconduct (Minor Infractions) as 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 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: No Change
- c. Change Reason / SPD code to: Misconduct (Minor Infractions)/JKN
- d. Change RE Code to: No Change
- e. Change Authority to: No Change

Authenticating Official:

2/18/2026



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
UOTHHC – Under Other Than
Honorable Conditions
VA – Department of Veterans
Affairs