1. Applicant's Name:

- a. Application Date: 25 May 2022
- b. Date Received: 3 June 2022
- c. Counsel: None

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

a. Applicant's Requests and Issues: The current characterization of service for the period under review is General (Under Honorable Conditions). The applicant requests an upgrade to Honorable, a narrative reason change, and changes to their separation and reentry codes.

b. The applicant seeks relief contending, they left a successful six figure career as a district manager to join the Army, with a goal to become a combat medic and to join the Ranger Regiment. Unfortunately, their military career was upended in week two of basic combat training (BCT) after they fell off a repel wall onto their back. This caused them the inability to sleep, sit, or move without pain, which took a big toll on their mental health, as they had never experienced this before. The applicant tried every treatment possible such as physical therapy, chiropractor, epidural, while having maintained their grades academically in medic school; however, nothing worked. On 17 January 2019, they underwent L5S1 spinal surgery and was told the severity of their training injury would likely result in an entry-level separation. After having dealt with complications from surgery, they were sent home on leave to convalesce.

(1) While pursuing their current career as a police officer, their background investigation during the hiring process made them aware of an arrest record in May 2019 for having been AWOL (absent without leave) from the military, which was shocking because they had never been arrested in their life. They would never knowingly or intentionally go AWOL and had not received any communications from the Army, although, [the command] claimed to have sent papers, which were never delivered or signed for. Had they had any knowledge of [their status], they would fixed it. Once they were made aware, the very next day, they dropped everything and returned back to the Army two years later, put their life on hold for 19 days to process their separation.

(2) The applicant takes responsibility in their naivety to believe that they were in the Army one day and then out the next, without any sort of paperwork or documentation other than their surgery. They did not know about a DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) or the warrior transition, although being an officer of the law now, they understand that negligence of the "law" is not an excuse to break such laws, and this has taught them to read the fine print. They were never in any trouble or had any instances before or after the Army that would suggest that they would knowingly be AWOL or not fulfill their duties/obligations. They have since been diagnosed with PTSD from their time in service and feel a General discharge is not appropriate, as it brings unjust embarrassment to their character, their family, and everything the applicant has worked to earn or make of themselves, therefore an upgrade to Honorable is requested. Further details are provided for consideration in their self-authored statement.

c. Board Type and Decision: In a records review conducted on 22 January 2025, and by a 5-0 vote, the Board denied the request upon finding the separation was both proper and equitable.

Please see Section 9 of this document for more detail regarding the Board's decision.

3. DISCHARGE DETAILS:

a. Reason / Authority / Codes / Characterization: Misconduct (AWOL) / AR 635-200, Chapter 14-12c (1) / JKD / RE-3 / General (Under Honorable Conditions)

- b. Date of Discharge: 9 July 2021
- c. Separation Facts:
 - (1) Date of Notification of Intent to Separate: 30 June 2021

(2) Basis for Separation: The applicant wrongfully absented themselves from their unit in excess of two years.

- (3) Recommended Characterization: General (Under Honorable Conditions)
- (4) Legal Consultation Date: 1 July 2021
- (5) Administrative Separation Board: NA

(6) Separation Decision Date / Characterization: 1 July 2021 / General (Under Honorable Conditions)

- 4. SERVICE DETAILS:
 - a. Date / Period of Enlistment: 28 August 2018 / 4 years
 - b. Age at Enlistment / Education / GT Score: 26 / Some College / 112
 - c. Highest Grade Achieved / MOS / Total Service: E-2 (PV2) / None / 8 months, 20 days
 - d. Prior Service / Characterizations: None
 - e. Overseas Service / Combat Service: None
 - f. Awards and Decorations: NDSM
 - g. Performance Ratings: NA
 - h. Disciplinary Action(s) / Evidentiary Record:

(1) On 28 August 2018, the applicant enlisted in the Regular Army for 4 years as a private second class, PV2 (E-2). The Enlisted Record Brief provides on 1 April 2019, they were flagged, Suspend Favorable Personnel Actions (FLAG), for adverse action (AA); and on 24 June 2021, for involuntary separation (BA). Charges were preferred in violations of Article 85, UCMJ (deserter) and Article 86 (AWOL), for being absent without leave from their unit on or about 1 April 2019; and for being a deserter on or about 1 May 2019. On 23 June 2021, their duty status changed from dropped from rolls (DFR) to present for duty (PDY). The next day, their command counseled them for being AWOL and the initiation of their involuntary separation.

(2) On 24-25 June 2021, the applicant completed their separation examinations at McWethy Troop Medical Clinic/Readiness Center, Fort Sam Houston, TX, providing their health has improved since their last physical, identified their back operation at BAMC (Brook Army Medical Center, FSH, TX) in January 2019, in which the provider acknowledged. They were mentally and medically qualified for service and separation.

(3) On 30 June 2021, the company commander notified the applicant of their intent to initiate separation proceedings under the provisions of AR 635-200, Chapter 14-12c (1), Misconduct (AWOL), for having been AWOL from their unit in excess of two years and recommended a General (Under Honorable Conditions) characterization of service, in which the battalion commander concurred with.

(4) On 1 July 2021, the applicant acknowledged receipt of their separation notice, elected to consult with legal and declined to submit a statement on their behalf. Defense counsel advised them on the effects of their separation and the rights available to them. The separation authority approved the discharge, with a General (Under Honorable Conditions) characterization of service.

(5) On 8 July 2021, their separation orders were issued. A DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) reflects the applicant was discharged accordingly on 9 July 2021, with 8 months and 20 days, noting the following:

- Authority: AR 635-200, Chapter 14-12c (1)
- Narrative Reason: Misconduct (AWOL)
- SPD Code: JKD
- Reentry Code: RE-3
- Service Characterization: General (Under Honorable Conditions)
- Total NET Active Service Period: 8 months and 20 days
- Remarks: Delayed Entry Program: 12 July 27 August 2018; the applicant has not completed their first full term of service.
- Lost Time: 2 years, 1 month, and 22 days (1 May 2019 22 June 2021)
- Signature: Electronically signed.

i. Lost Time / Mode of Return: 2 years, 1 month, and 22 days / AWOL (1 May 2019 – 22 June 2021) / Returned to Military Control

j. Behavioral Health Condition(s): Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

(1) Applicant provided: On 21 August 2019, they received a mental status evaluation at WRS Health, OK, which provided a behavioral health (BH) diagnosis of: PTSD, unspecified. The provider prescribed them Prozac, Prazosin, Xanax, and Ambien; additionally, they were referred to psychotherapy.

(2) AMHRR Listed: None

5. APPLICANT-PROVIDED EVIDENCE: Application for the Review of Discharge; Self-Authored Statement; Medical Records; Police Officer Oath of Office; Three character letters from their fiancé, their chaplain, and their former employer contends, the applicant is the most selfless, caring, hardworking person who proudly serves with an outstanding rapport with the citizens and officers of their community; their ability to maintain a sense of control, calmness to make rational decisions in the moments of life threatening health issues was unprecedented; professionally, the applicant leads by example with their department and portrays a positive and

supportive role as an employee; they placed high value in taking a committed approach to training and development of their team for success.

6. POST SERVICE ACCOMPLISHMENTS: They worked as a General Manager for Love's Travel Stops as well as Fitness Connection and then the applicant pursued a career in law enforcement and became a police officer September 2021. Additionally, they were engaged to be married with a newborn.

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 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. Multiple Department of Defense Policy Guidance Memoranda published between 2014 and 2018. The documents are commonly referred to by the signatory authorities' last names (2014 Secretary of Defense Guidance [Hagel memo], 2016 Acting Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness [Carson memo], 2017 Official Performing the Duties of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness [Wilkie memo], and 2018 Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness [Wilkie memo].

(1) Individually and collectively, these documents provide further clarification to the Military Discharge Review Boards and Boards for Correction of Military/Naval Records when considering requests by Veterans for modification of their discharge due to mental health conditions, including PTSD; TBI; sexual assault; or sexual harassment. Liberal consideration will be given to Veterans petitioning for discharge relief when the application for relief is based in whole or in part on matters relating to mental health conditions, including PTSD; TBI; sexual assault; or sexual harassment. Special consideration will be given to Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) determinations that document a mental health condition, including PTSD; TBI; or sexual assault/harassment potentially contributed to the circumstances resulting in a less than honorable discharge characterization. Special consideration will also be given in cases where a civilian provider confers diagnoses of a mental health condition, including PTSD; TBI; or sexual assault/harassment if the case records contain narratives supporting symptomatology at the time of service or when any other evidence which may reasonably indicate that a mental health condition, including PTSD; TBI; or sexual assault/harassment existed at the time of discharge might have mitigated the misconduct that caused a discharge of lesser characterization.

(2) Conditions documented in the service record that can reasonably be determined to have existed at the time of discharge will be considered to have existed at the time of discharge. In cases in which a mental health condition, including PTSD; TBI; or sexual assault/harassment may be reasonably determined to have existed at the time of discharge, those conditions will be considered potential mitigating factors in the misconduct that caused the characterization of

service in question. All Boards will exercise caution in weighing evidence of mitigation in cases in which serious misconduct precipitated a discharge with a less than Honorable characterization of service. Potentially mitigating evidence of the existence of undiagnosed combat related PTSD, PTSD-related conditions due to TBI or sexual assault/harassment as causative factors in the misconduct resulting in discharge will be carefully weighed against the severity of the misconduct. PTSD is not a likely cause of premeditated misconduct. Caution shall be exercised in weighing evidence of mitigation in all cases of misconduct by carefully considering the likely causal relationship of symptoms to the misconduct.

c. Army Regulation 15-180 (Army Discharge Review Board), dated 25 September 2019, sets forth the policies and procedures under which the Army Discharge Review Board is authorized to review the character, reason, and authority of any Servicemember discharged from active military service within 15 years of the Servicemember's date of discharge. Additionally, it prescribes actions and composition of the Army Discharge Review Board under Public Law 95-126; Section 1553, Title 10 United States Code; and Department of Defense Directive 1332.41 and Instruction 1332.28.

d. Army Regulation 635-200 (Active Duty Enlisted Administrative Separations), set policies, standards, and procedures to ensure the readiness and competency of the force while providing for the orderly administrative separation of Soldiers for a variety of reasons. Readiness is promoted by maintaining high standards of conduct and performance.

(1) Chapter 3 provides 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.

(a) 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.

(b) An Under other-than-honorable-conditions discharge is an administrative separation from the Service under conditions other than honorable and it may be issued for misconduct, fraudulent entry, security reasons, or in lieu of trial by court martial based on certain circumstances or patterns of behavior or acts or omissions that constitute a significant departure from the conduct expected of Soldiers in the Army.

(2) Chapter 14 establishes policy and prescribes procedures for separating members for misconduct. Specific categories include minor disciplinary infractions, a pattern of misconduct, and commission of a serious offense, to include abuse of illegal drugs, convictions by civil authorities and desertion or being absent without leave. Action will be taken to separate a member for misconduct when it is clearly established that rehabilitation is impractical or unlikely to succeed. A discharge under other than honorable conditions is normally appropriate for a Soldier discharged under this chapter. However, the separation authority may direct a general discharge if such is merited by the Soldier's overall record. A Soldier is subject to action per this section for commission of a serious military or civilian offense, if the specific circumstances of the offense warrant separation and a punitive discharge is, or would be, authorized for the same or a closely related offense under the Manual for Courts-Martial.

(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

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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.

e. 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 "JKD" as the appropriate code to assign enlisted Soldiers who are discharged under the provisions of Army Regulation 635-200, Chapter 14-12c (1), Misconduct (AWOL).

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:

(1) 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.

(2) 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.

(3) 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 631-10 (Absence, Without Leave, Desertion, and Administration of Personnel Involved in Civilian Court Proceedings) provides policies and procedures for reporting unauthorized absentees and deserters, the administering of absent without leave (AWOL) personnel and deserters, returning absentees and deserters to military control and the surrendering of military personnel to civilian law enforcement authorities. When a soldier returns from an absence that is or appears to be unauthorized, the unit commander informally investigates whether disciplinary action should be taken and if the soldier be charge with time lost.

(1) Classification of an absence is dependent upon such factors as the following:

- Order and instructions, written/oral, the Soldier received before/during absence
- Age, military experience, and general intelligence of the Soldier
- Number and type of contact the Soldier had with the military absent
- Complete or incomplete results of a court-martial decision if any

(2) An absence immediately following authorized leave is classified as AWOL. Should the absence subsequently be reclassified, the soldiers leave is corrected to reflect the reclassified absence, except if the absence is caused by the following:

- Mental incapacity
- Detention by civilian authorities

• Early departure of a mobile unit due to operational commitments

h. Manual for Courts-Martial (2019 Edition), United States, states military law consists of the statutes governing the military establishment and regulations issued thereunder, the constitutional powers of the President and regulations issued thereunder, and the inherent authority of military commanders. Military law includes jurisdiction exercised by courts-martial and the jurisdiction exercised by commanders with respect to nonjudicial punishment. The purpose of military law is to promote justice, to assist in maintaining good orders and discipline in the Armed Forces. Article 85 (deserter) states in subparagraph the maximum punishment consists of dishonorable discharge, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, and confinement for two years. Article 86 (absence without leave) states in subparagraph being absence without leave for more than 30 days, the maximum punishment consists of a forfeiture of all pay and allowances, and confinement for one year.

8. SUMMARY OF FACT(S): 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, and changes to their separation and reentry codes. The applicant's Army Military Human Resources Record (AMHRR), the issues, and documents submitted with the application were carefully reviewed.

(1) A review of the available evidence provides the applicant enlisted in the RA and served on continuous active duty for 260 days prior to having been AWOL, on or about 1 May 2019 – 23 June 2021. Upon returning to their military control unit (Fort Sam Houston, TX), separation proceedings were initiated under the provisions of AR 635-200, Chapter 14-12c (1), Misconduct (AWOL), with a General (Under Honorable Conditions) characterization of service. They elected to consult with legal, declined to submit a statement on their behalf, and defense counsel advised them on the effects of their separation and the rights available to them.

(2) They completed separation exams which mentally and medically qualified them for service and separation. The applicant had spinal surgery on their L5S1 on 17 January 2019, was sent home on convalescent leave, and contends they never heard back from the Army until they pursued their current career in law enforcement, discovering their deserter status. Further, the applicant provided medical records from surgery and a mental status evaluation which identified their PTSD, unspecified diagnosis. They have served 8 months and 20 days of their 4 year contractual obligation.

b. AR 635-200, Chapter 14 establishes policy and prescribes procedures for separating members for misconduct. Specific categories include minor disciplinary infractions, a pattern of misconduct, commission of a serious offense and convictions by civil authorities. Action will be taken to separate a member for misconduct when it is clearly established that rehabilitation is impracticable or is unlikely to succeed. A discharge under other than honorable conditions is normally appropriate for a Soldier discharge under this chapter. However, the separation authority may direct a general discharge if such is merited by the Soldier's overall record.

c. Published Department of Defense guidance indicates that the guidance is not intended to interfere or impeded on the Board's statutory independence. The Board will determine the relative weight of the action that led to the discharge and whether it supports relief or not. In reaching its determination, the Board shall consider the applicant's petition, available records and/or submitted documents in support of the petition.

9. BOARD DISCUSSION AND DETERMINATION:

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

(1) Did the applicant have a condition or experience that may excuse or mitigate the discharge? **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: Mood Disorder (Depressive and Anxiety Disorders Unspecified) and submitted civilian PTSD and GAD.

(2) Did the condition exist or experience occur during military service? Yes. Submitted civilian PTSD and GAD.

(3) Does the condition or experience actually excuse or mitigate the discharge? **No.** The Board's Medical Advisor applied liberal consideration and opined that although PTSD may be mitigating, without the initial evaluation outlining the trauma with supporting criteria, this cannot be assumed to be service related. Additionally, although the VA service connected condition is acknowledged, this is attributed to events after the return from AWOL. Furthermore, there is no medical records to support an ELS was mismanaged.

(4) Does the condition or experience outweigh the discharge? No. After applying liberal consideration to the evidence, including the Board Medical Advisor's opine, the Board determined that the available evidence did not support a conclusion that the applicant's conditions outweighed the medically unmitigated list offenses.

b. Prior Decisions Cited: None

c. Response to Contention(s): The applicant seeks relief contending, they left a successful six figure career as a district manager to join the Army, with a goal to become a combat medic and to join the Ranger Regiment. Unfortunately, their military career was upended in week two of basic combat training (BCT) after they fell off a repel wall onto their back. This caused them the inability to sleep, sit, or move without pain, which took a big toll on their mental health, as they had never experienced this before. The applicant tried every treatment possible such as physical therapy, chiropractor, epidural, while having maintained their grades academically in medic school; however, nothing worked. On 17 January 2019, they underwent L5S1 spinal surgery and was told the severity of their training injury would likely result in an entry-level separation. After having dealt with complications from surgery, they were sent home on leave to convalesce.

The Board acknowledged this contention and determined the applicant was able to complete training.

(1) While pursuing their current career as a police officer, their background investigation during the hiring process made them aware of an arrest record in May 2019 for having been AWOL (absent without leave) from the military, which was shocking because they had never been arrested in their life. They would never knowingly or intentionally go AWOL and had not received any communications from the Army, although, [the command] claimed to have sent papers, which were never delivered or signed for. Had they had any knowledge of [their status], they would fixed it. Once they were made aware, the very next day, they dropped everything and returned back to the Army two years later, put their life on hold for 19 days to process their separation.

The Board considered this contention non-persuasive during its deliberations.

(2) The applicant takes responsibility in their naivety to believe that they were in the Army one day and then out the next, without any sort of paperwork or documentation other than their surgery. They did not know about a DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) or the warrior transition, although being an officer of the law now, they understand that negligence of the "law" is not an excuse to break such laws, and this has taught them to read the fine print. They were never in any trouble or had any instances before or after the Army that would suggest that they would knowingly be AWOL or not fulfill their duties/obligations. They have since been diagnosed with PTSD from their time in service and feel a General discharge is not appropriate, as it brings unjust embarrassment to their character, their family, and everything the applicant has worked to earn or make of themselves, therefore an upgrade to Honorable is requested. Further details are provided for consideration in their self-authored statement.

The Board considered this contention during deliberations.

(3) Three character letters from their fiancé, their chaplain, and their former employer contends, the applicant is the most selfless, caring, hardworking person who proudly serves with an outstanding rapport with the citizens and officers of their community; their ability to maintain a sense of control, calmness to make rational decisions in the moments of life threatening health issues was unprecedented; professionally, the applicant leads by example with their department and portrays a positive and supportive role as an employee; they placed high value in taking a committed approach to training and development of their team for success.

The Board acknowledged and considered this contention during proceedings.

d. The Board determined that the discharge is, at this time, proper and equitable, in light of the current evidence of record. However, the applicant may request a personal appearance hearing to address the issues before the Board. 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) The Board voted not to change the applicant's characterization of service based on the following reasons. The VA service connection is attributed to events after the applicant returned from AWOL. There are no records to support the discharge was mismanaged, inequitable or improper. The Board determined there was not enough documentation in the file to support an upgrade and cited some integrity concerns and conflicting information provided in the application (regarding not receiving notification of being AWOL from the chain of command). The discharge was consistent with the procedural and substantive requirements of the regulation, was within the discretion of the separation authority, and the applicant was provided full administrative due process.

(2) 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.

(3) 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: No
- b. Change Characterization to: No change
- c. Change Reason / SPD code to: No change
- d. Change RE Code to: No change
- e. Change Authority to: No change

Authenticating Official:

1/23/2025

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Presiding Officer, COL, U.S. ARMY Army Discharge Review Board

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 GD – General Discharge HS – High School HD – Honorable Discharge IADT – Initial Active Duty Training MP – 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