

1. Applicant's Name: [REDACTED]**a. Application Date:** 9 July 2022**b. Date Received:** 9 July 2022**c. Counsel:** None**2. REQUEST, ISSUES, BOARD TYPE, AND DECISION:**

a. Applicant Requests: The current characterization of service for the period under review is General (Under Honorable Conditions). The applicant requests an upgrade to honorable.

b. Applicant Contention(s)/Issue(s): The applicant requests relief contending, in effect, during the applicant's time in the military the applicant incurred multiple head injuries. Those head traumas exacerbated underlying depression and caused years of seizure activity after discharge. The major head trauma transpired in basic training, causing minutes of unconsciousness and a brief period (3–5 minutes) of unresponsiveness and reduced airflow to vital organs. The applicant followed every order, had no disciplinary actions, and pursued the applicant's occupation with respect and dignity.

c. Board Type and Decision: In a records review conducted on 18 March 2026, and by a 3-0 vote, the Board determined that the characterization of service was improper. The record indicates the applicant was not notified of any specific factors which would warrant a general (under honorable conditions) characterization of service. No Soldier may be awarded a character of service of general (under honorable conditions) under the provisions of the governing regulations, unless the Soldier is notified of the specific factors in their service record that warrant such a characterization, using the notification procedure. Such characterization is normally inappropriate for Soldiers separated under the narrative reason of Condition, Not a Disability. 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: Condition, Not a Disability / AR 635-200, Paragraph 5-17 / JFV / RE-3 / General (Under Honorable Conditions)

b. Date of Discharge: 11 June 2012

c. Separation Facts:

(1) Date of Notification of Intent to Separate: 14 May 2012

(2) Basis for Separation: The applicant was informed of the following reasons: The applicant was diagnosed with an adjustment disorder.

(3) Recommended Characterization: Honorable

(4) Legal Consultation Date: 14 May 2012

(5) Administrative Separation Board: NA

(6) Separation Decision Date / Characterization: 18 May 2012 / General (Under Honorable Conditions)

4. SERVICE DETAILS:

a. Date / Period of Enlistment Under Review: 15 September 2010 / 5 years

b. Age at Enlistment / Education / GT Score: 23 / HS Graduate / 116

c. Highest Grade Achieved / MOS / Total Service: E-3 / 31B1O, Military Police / 1 year, 8 months, 27 days

d. Prior Service / Characterizations: None

e. Overseas Service / Combat Service: None

f. Awards and Decorations: NDSM, GWOTSM, ASR

g. Performance Ratings: NA

h. Disciplinary Action(s) / Evidentiary Record:

(1) A Report of Medical History, 24 January 2012, indicates the applicant experienced dizziness and went to Fort Leonard Wood Military Hospital for unconsciousness and concussion November 2010.

(2) A Report of Medical Examination, 31 January 2012, reflects the applicant was qualified for service/separation.

(3) Developmental Counseling Form shows the applicant was counseled on 16 April 2012 by the company commander for initiation of separation under AR 635-200, chapter 5-17, after concurring with the doctor's recommendation. The commander noted the applicant would receive all the medical attention the doctors deemed necessary prior to the applicant's discharge from the Army.

i. Lost Time / Mode of Return: None

j. Behavioral Health Condition(s): The following documents have been provided to the ARBA Medical Advisor, if applicable. See **"Board Discussion and Determination** for Medical Advisor Details.

(1) Applicant provided: None

(2) AMHRR provided:

(a) Report of Behavioral Health Evaluation, 28 November 2011, shows the applicant was evaluated due to self-referral. The applicant was diagnosed with psychotic disorder not otherwise specified, depression. The applicant required further examination or testing to finalize diagnosis and recommendations. The examiner noted the applicant was fit for limited duty with an anticipated return to full duty status within one year.

(b) Report of Mental Status Evaluation (MSE), 10 January 2012, reflects the applicant was unfit for duty due to a personality disorder or other mental condition that did not amount to a medical disability, and unfit for duty due to a serious mental condition that was not likely to resolve within one year. The applicant was diagnosed with Adjustment Disorder with Disturbance of Emotions and Conduct. The psychiatrist noted the applicant joined the Army in May 2010, and during basic and into advanced training the applicant experienced auditory hallucinations in the form of voices telling the applicant to kill himself. The applicant reported having such hallucinations periodically over the preceding two years. The applicant did not seek mental health assistance at that time, completed training, arriving to FBT February 2011. Due to this change and heightened expectations of the unit, coupled with isolative behaviors, and poor coping skills for stress and anxiety, the applicant's behavior deteriorated due to the stressors brought on by military service. These difficulties and hallucinations continued to intensify whereupon the applicant was placed in psychiatric hospitalization at UBH. This is a long-standing chronic behavior pattern of maladjustment and warranted an expeditious separation from the Army in accordance with AR 635-200, Chapter 5-17.

5. APPLICANT-PROVIDED EVIDENCE: Online application; DD Form 214

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), 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.

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 waivable and nonwaivable 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 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 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. It states:

(a) 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) 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 5 provides for the basic separation of enlisted personnel for the convenience of the government.

(a) Paragraph 5-1 states a Soldier being separated under this paragraph will be awarded a characterization of service of honorable, general (under honorable conditions), or an uncharacterized description of service if in entry-level status. A general (under honorable conditions) discharge is normally inappropriate for individuals separated under the provisions of paragraph 5-14 (previously paragraph 5-17) unless properly notified of the specific factors in the service that warrant such characterization.

(b) Paragraph 5-17 specifically provides that a Soldier may be separated for other physical or mental conditions not amounting to a disability, which interferes with assignment to or performance of duty and requires that the diagnosis be so severe that the Soldier's ability to function in the military environment is significantly impaired.

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 "JFV" as the appropriate code to assign enlisted Soldiers who are discharged under the provisions of Army Regulation 635-200, Chapter 5-14 (previously Chapter 5-17), Condition, Not a Disability.

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 was separated under the provisions of AR 635-200, paragraph 5-17, by reason of condition, not a disability, with a general (under honorable conditions) discharge. A MSE reveals the applicant was diagnosed with adjustment disorder with disturbance of emotions and conduct and met the psychiatric criteria for expeditious administrative separation in accordance with AR 635-200, chapter 5-17. No Soldier may be awarded a character of

service of general (under honorable conditions) under the provisions of paragraph 5-14 (previously paragraph 5-17), unless the Soldier is notified of the specific factors in their service record that warrant such a characterization, using the notification procedure. Such characterization is normally inappropriate for Soldiers separated under the provisions of paragraph 5-14 (previously 5-17).

c. The applicant contends during the applicant's time in the military the applicant incurred multiple head injuries. Those head traumas exacerbated underlying depression and caused years of seizure activity after discharge. The major head trauma transpired in basic training, causing minutes of unconsciousness and a brief period (3–5 minutes) of unresponsiveness and reduced airflow to vital organs. The applicant followed every order, had no disciplinary actions, and pursued the applicant's occupation with respect and dignity. A Report of Medical History, dated 24 January 2012, shows the applicant experienced dizziness and went to Fort Leonard Wood Military Hospital for unconsciousness and concussion in November 2010. The applicant provided no additional supporting evidence beyond their statement to support this contention.

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: Adjustment Disorder with disturbance of emotions and conduct. Additionally, the applicant asserts multiple head injuries and depression, 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 documentation of several BH conditions dating back to the applicant's time in BCT and AIT.

(3) Does the condition or experience actually excuse or mitigate the discharge? **Yes.** The Board's Medical Advisor applied liberal consideration and opined that the in-service records showed a progressively worsening mental state initially beginning in training and resulting in two hospitalizations and necessity of a partial hospitalization program prior to discharge. Applicant was prescribed antipsychotic medications, which helped to reduce hallucinations, but was discharged IAW 635-200, Chapter 5-17 for an Adjustment Disorder with a General discharge. The basis of separation did not contain any misconduct, and Chapter 5-17 related to characterization of service indicates a character of service under honorable conditions requires notification of the specific factors in his record warranting such a characterization. Given there is no indication of misconduct, characterization of service is mitigated.

(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 characterization of service was improper and warranted relief based on the aforementioned reasons.

b. Prior Decisions Cited: N/A

c. Response to Contention(s): The applicant contends during the applicant's time in the military the applicant incurred multiple head injuries. Those head traumas exacerbated underlying depression and caused years of seizure activity after discharge. The major head trauma transpired in basic training, causing minutes of unconsciousness and a brief period (3–5 minutes) of unresponsiveness and reduced airflow to vital organs. The applicant followed every order, had no disciplinary actions, and pursued the applicant's occupation with respect and dignity. The Board considered this contention and determined that relief was warranted based on the lack of required notifications which would warrant a General characterization of service, and the applicant's specific discharging regulation requires an Honorable characterization.

d. The Board determined that the characterization of service was improper. The record indicates the applicant was not notified of any specific factors which would warrant a general (under honorable conditions) characterization of service. No Soldier may be awarded a character of service of general (under honorable conditions) under the provisions of the governing regulations, unless the Soldier is notified of the specific factors in their service record that warrant such a characterization, using the notification procedure. Such characterization is normally inappropriate for Soldiers separated under the narrative reason of Condition, Not a Disability.

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 totality of the applicant's service record did not contain evidence of any misconduct or required notifications to downgrade the characterization and is in fact improper. Thus, the prior characterization is no longer appropriate.

(3) The Board voted not to change the applicant's reason for discharge or accompanying SPD code, as the reason the applicant was discharged was both proper and equitable due to the applicant's listed conditions.

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

ARMY DISCHARGE REVIEW BOARD CASE REPORT AND DIRECTIVE

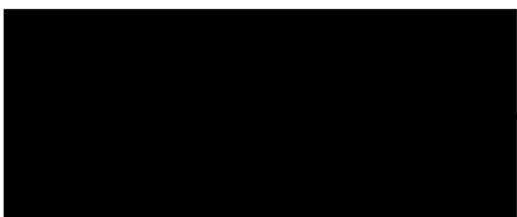
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10. BOARD ACTION DIRECTED:

- a. Issue a New DD-214: 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: AR 635-200

Authenticating Official:

3/24/2026



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