

1. Applicant's Name: [REDACTED]**a. Application Date:** 1 November 2022**b. Date Received:** 1 November 2022**c. Counsel:****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 and a change of their narrative reason for separation.

b. Applicant Contention(s)/Issue(s): The applicant requests relief contending they were unable to perform to standard physically due to skin and joint condition they contracted while in Afghanistan. They were diagnosed with Psoriatic Arthritis and Psoriasis during their deployment to Afghanistan due to conditions there. Seventy percent of their body was covered in open lesions and sores due to their diagnosis. They were unable to perform their two-mile run event for the Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT) due to the pain and skin irritation. They attempted treatment for five years until the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) hospital was able to control and help place their condition in remission. They would like to use their GI Bill to go to college.

c. Board Type and Decision: In a records review conducted on 11 February 2026, and by a 3-0 vote, the Board determined the discharge is inequitable based on the applicant's length and quality of service, to include combat service, and overseas service outweighed the multiple APFT failures. Therefore, the Board voted to grant relief in the form of an upgrade of the characterization of service to Honorable. Please see **Board Discussion and Determination** section for more detail regarding the Board's decision. Board member names are available upon request.

3. DISCHARGE DETAILS:

a. Reason / Authority / Codes / Characterization: Physical Standards / Army Regulation 635-200, Paragraph 13-2E / JFT / RE-3 / General (Under Honorable Conditions)

b. Date of Discharge: 20 March 2012**c. Separation Facts:****(1) Date of Notification of Intent to Separate:** 30 January 2012

(2) Basis for Separation: The applicant was informed of the following reasons: failed six consecutive APFTs.

(3) Recommended Characterization: Honorable**(4) Legal Consultation Date:** 31 January 2012**(5) Administrative Separation Board:** NA**(6) Separation Decision Date / Characterization:** 6 March 2012

4. SERVICE DETAILS:

- a. Date / Period of Enlistment Under Review:** 30 September 2008 / 3 years, 22 weeks
- b. Age at Enlistment / Education / GT Score:** 20 / Less Than HS Diploma / 110
- c. Highest Grade Achieved / MOS / Total Service:** E-4 / 88M1O, Motor Transport Operator / 3 years, 5 months, 21 weeks
- d. Prior Service / Characterizations:** None
- e. Overseas Service / Combat Service:** Germany, SWA / Afghanistan (Note: The applicant's AMHRR reflects service in Afghanistan (19 November 2009 – 28 October 2010), however, it is not reflected on their DD Form 214).
- f. Awards and Decorations:** NDSM, ACM-2CS, GWTSM, ASR, OSR, NATOMDL
- g. Performance Ratings:** NA
- h. Disciplinary Action(s) / Evidentiary Record:**

(1) Three DA Forms 4856 (Developmental Counseling Form) dated 21 June 2011 and 4 October 2011 reflects the applicant received event oriented counseling for two occurrences of APFT failure and Notification of the initiation of chapter 13 proceedings. The Key Points of Discussions reflects the applicant did not finish the two-mile run event and informed the applicant that if they do not pass the APFT they can be administratively separated from the Army. The applicant agreed with the counselings, provide not remarks and signed the counseling forms.

(2) A DA Form 3975 (Military Police Report) dated 14 October 2011 reflects the applicant as the named subject with the offense description of Drunk on Duty (Article 134, Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ)). The Narrative states, an investigation revealed the applicant was escorted to the Military Police Station after detection of a strong odor of an alcohol beverage emitting. The applicant was administered a breathalyzer test, which resulted in a reading of 0.065 grams.

(3) A DA Form 2627 (Record of Proceedings under Article 15, UCMJ), dated 21 October 2011, reflects the applicant received nonjudicial punishment, in that they, did, at or near Fort Gordon, GA, on or about 14 October 2011, without authority fail to go at the time prescribed to their appointed place of duty, to wit: Physical Training Formation, in violation of Article 86 (Absence without leave), UCMJ; and, in that they were, as a result of wrongful previous overindulgence in intoxicating liquor or drugs, incapacitated for the proper performance of their duties, in violation of Article 134, UCMJ. Their punishment consisted of a reduction in rank/grade from specialist/E-4 to private first class/E-3, forfeiture of \$455.00 pay, and extra duty and restriction for 14 days. The applicant elected not to appeal.

(4) Eight DA Forms 4856 (Developmental Counseling Form), dated 24 October 2011 through 9 January 2012, reflects the applicant received event oriented counseling for eight occurrences of APFT failures. The applicant agreed with the counselings, provide not remarks and signed the counseling forms.

(5) A memorandum, Alpha Company, 369th Signal Battalion, 15th Regimental Signal Brigade, subject: Separate Army Regulation 635-200, Chapter 13e, Unsatisfactory Performance, [Applicant], dated 30 January 2012, the applicant's company commander notified the applicant that under the provisions of Army Regulation 635-200, chapter 13e, they are initiating action to separate them for Unsatisfactory Performance. The reason for the proposed action is failed six consecutive APFTs. The commander recommends the applicant's service be characterized as Honorable. On that same day, the applicant acknowledged the basis for the separation and of the right available to them.

(6) On 31 January 2012, the applicant completed their election of rights acknowledging they have been advised by their consulting counsel of the basis for the contemplated action to discharge them for reasons under Army Regulation 635-200, chapter 13 and its effects; of the rights available to them; and of the effect of any action taken by them in waiving their rights. They requested consulting counsel and elected to submit statements in their behalf (Note: statement in the applicant's behalf are not in evidence for review). They understand they may expect to encounter substantial prejudice in civilian life if a general (under honorable conditions) discharge is issued to them. (Note: only page 1 is in evidence for review.)

(7) A memorandum, Alpha Company, 369th Signal Battalion, 15th Regimental Signal Brigade, subject: Commander's Report – Proposed Separate Army Regulation 635-200, Chapter 13e, Unsatisfactory Performance, [Applicant], dated 8 February 2012, the applicant's company commander submitted a request to separate them prior to their expiration term of service. The company commander states they do not consider it feasible or appropriate to accomplish other disposition and recommends the applicant be expeditiously discharged from active duty due to their inability to pass the End of Course APFT in six different attempts. There is no pattern of improvement; especially since the applicant has also failed five Diagnostic APFTs. The applicant has been given adequate time to retrain and pass the End of Course APFT. The commander recommended the applicant's characterization of service as Honorable.

(8) A memorandum, 369th Signal Battalion, 15th Regimental Signal Brigade, subject: Separation under Army Regulation 635-200, Paragraph 13, Unsatisfactory Performance [Applicant], dated 6 March 2012, the separation authority, having reviewed the separation packet of the applicant, directed the applicant be separated from the Army prior to the expiration of current term of service and their service be characterized as General (Under Honorable Conditions). After reviewing the rehabilitative transfer requirement, the separation authority determined the requirements are waived, as the transfer will serve no useful purpose or product a quality Soldier.

(9) A DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) reflects the applicant was discharged on 20 March 2012, with 3 years, 5 months, and 21 days of net active service this period. The DD Form 214 shows in –

- item 24 (Character of Service) – General (Under Honorable Conditions)
- item 25 (Separation Authority) – Army Regulation 635-200, Chapter 13-2E
- item 26 (Separation Code) – JFT
- item 27 (Reentry Code) – 3
- item 28 (Narrative Reason for Separation) – Physical Standards

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 Medical Records, reflecting Problems consisting of “Adj Reac W/Mixed Emotion,” Generalized Anxiety Disorder and Psoriasis.

(2) AMHRR provided: None

5. APPLICANT-PROVIDED EVIDENCE:

- DD Form 293 (Application for the Review of Discharge from the Armed Forces of the United States)
- VA Medical Record excerpts

6. POST SERVICE ACCOMPLISHMENTS: None submitted with 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 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.

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 13 (Separation for Unsatisfactory Performance) stated a Soldier may be separated per this chapter when it is determined that they are unqualified for further military service because of unsatisfactory performance. Commanders will separate a member under this Chapter when, in the commander's judgment, the member will not develop sufficiently to participate satisfactorily in further training and/or become a satisfactory Soldier.

(3) Paragraph 13-2e stated initiation of separation proceedings is required for Soldiers without medical limitations who have two consecutive failures of the APFT or who are eliminated for cause from NCO Education System courses.

(4) Paragraph 13-10 (Characterization of Service) stated the service of Soldiers separated because of unsatisfactory performance will be characterized as honorable or general (under honorable conditions) as warranted by their military records.

(5) 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

(6) 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 "JFT" as the appropriate code to assign enlisted Soldiers who are discharged under the provisions of Army Regulation 635-200, Chapter 13-2e, Physical Standards.

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 and a change of their narrative reason for separation. The applicant's Army Military Human Resources Record (AMHRR), the issues, and documents submitted with the application were carefully reviewed.

b. A review of the available evidence provides the applicant received counseling for Unsatisfactory Performance, six consecutive APFT failures. Their DD Form 214 provides they were discharged with a character of service of General (Under Honorable Conditions), for

Physical Standards. They completed 3 years, 5 months and 21 days of net active service this period and completed their first term of service.

c. Chapter 13 stated a Soldier may be separated per this chapter when it is determined that they are unqualified for further military service because of unsatisfactory performance. Commanders will separate a member under this Chapter when, in the commander's judgment, the member will not develop sufficiently to participate satisfactorily in further training and/or become a satisfactory Soldier. Initiation of separation proceedings is required for Soldiers without medical limitations who have two consecutive failures of the APFT or who are eliminated for cause from NCO Education System courses. The service of Soldiers separated because of unsatisfactory performance will be characterized as honorable or general (under honorable conditions) as warranted by their military records.

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 diagnosis: PTSD.

(2) Did the condition exist, or experience occur during military service? **Yes.** PTSD.

(3) Does the condition or experience actually excuse or mitigate the discharge? **Partial.** The Board's Medical Advisor applied liberal consideration and opined that the APFT failures appear unrelated to either medical or psychiatric difficulties, but the substance related misconduct likely contributing to the characterization decision is. However, the Board could consider the possibility the failed APFTs may have been secondary to trauma which can lead to reduced motivation, energy, and desire to avoid triggers.

(4) Does the condition or experience outweigh the discharge? **No.** Despite the Board's application of liberal consideration, the Board considered the opinion of the Board's Medical Advisor, a voting member, that the available evidence did not support a conclusion that the applicant's PTSD outweighed the basis for applicant's separation – six APFT failures – for the aforementioned reason(s).

b. Prior Decisions Cited: N/A

c. Response to Contention(s):

(1) The applicant contends they were unable to perform to standard physically due to skin and joint condition they contracted while in Afghanistan. The Board considered this contention and determined that an upgrade to the characterization was warranted based on the applicant's length and quality of service, to include combat and overseas service, but the narrative reason is proper and equitable and supported by the official records and contention.

(2) The applicant contends they were diagnosed with Psoriatic Arthritis and Psoriasis during their deployment to Afghanistan due to conditions there. Seventy percent of their body was covered in open lesions and sores due to their diagnosis. The Board considered this contention and determined that an upgrade to the characterization was warranted based on the applicant's length and quality of service, to include combat and overseas service, but the narrative reason is proper and equitable and supported by the official records and contention.

(3) The applicant contends they were unable to perform their two-mile run event for the APFT due to pain and skin irritation. The Board considered this contention and determined that an upgrade to the characterization was warranted based on the applicant's length and quality of service, to include combat and overseas service, but the narrative reason is proper and equitable and supported by the official records and contention.

(4) The applicant contends they attempted treatment for five years until the VA hospital was able to control and help place their condition in remission. The Board considered this contention and determined that an upgrade to the characterization was warranted based on the applicant's length and quality of service, to include combat and overseas service, but the narrative reason is proper and equitable and supported by the official records and contention.

(5) The applicant contends they would like to use their GI Bill for schooling. The Board considered this contention but does not grant relief solely to gain benefits or enhance employment opportunities barring some other impropriety or inequity to outweigh the misconduct.

d. The Board determined the discharge is inequitable based on the applicant's length and quality of service, to include combat service, and overseas service outweighed the multiple APFT failures. However, the applicant may request a personal appearance hearing to address further 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) 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 length and quality of service, to include combat service, and overseas service outweighed the multiple APFT failures. 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 and supported by the official records and contention.

(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

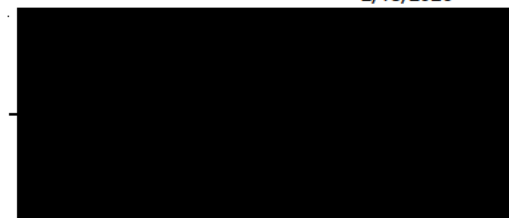
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10. BOARD ACTION DIRECTED:

- 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: No Change

Authenticating Official:

2/18/2026



Legend:

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

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

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

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