

1. Applicant's Name: [REDACTED]**a. Application Date:** 16 October 2023**b. Date Received:** 18 October 2023**c. Counsel:** None**2. REQUEST, ISSUES, BOARD TYPE, AND DECISION:****a. Applicant's Requests and Issues:**

(1) The current characterization of service for the period under review is General (Under Honorable Conditions). The applicant requests a change to Honorable.

(2) The applicant seeks relief contending they were diagnosed with Bipolar Disorder before their administrative discharge proceedings started. There were things they told to the behavioral health personnel at that time they believe were seen by the official making the decision on their character of service. Their first term of service was Honorable and they were only six months into their reenlistment period when they were diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Bipolar Disorder. After being released from the military they are having issues with education benefits regarding their character of service. They do not believe it is just to be under such scrutiny when they should have completed the Medical Board Process. Their diagnoses were severe at the time of their employment outside of the military.

b. Board Type and Decision: In a records review conducted on 20 January 2026, and by a 3-0 vote, the Board determined the discharge is inequitable based on the applicant's length and quality of service, the circumstances surrounding the discharge (OBHI diagnoses), and post-service accomplishments. Therefore, the Board voted to grant relief in the form of an upgrade of the characterization of service to Honorable and changed to the separation authority to AR 635-200, paragraph 14-12a, the narrative reason for separation to Misconduct (Minor Infractions), with a corresponding separation code of JKN. The Board determined the reentry code is proper and equitable and voted not to change it. Please see **Board Discussion and Determination** section for more detail regarding the Board's decision. Board member names available upon request.

3. DISCHARGE DETAILS:

a. Reason / Authority / Codes / Characterization: Misconduct (Drug Abuse) / Army Regulations 635-200, Paragraph 14-12c(2) / JKK / RE-4 / General (Under Honorable Conditions)

b. Date of Discharge: 12 December 2017**c. Separation Facts:**

(1) **Date of Notification of Intent to Separate:** 17 June 2017

(2) **Basis for Separation:** The applicant was informed of the following reason: abuse of illegal drugs, marijuana.

(3) **Recommended Characterization:** Under Other Than Honorable Conditions

(4) Legal Consultation Date: 18 June 2017

(5) Administrative Separation Board: on 1 November 2017, the applicant conditionally waived consideration of the case before an administrative separation board, contingent upon receiving a characterization of service no less favorable than General (Under Honorable Conditions) discharge.

(6) Separation Decision Date / Characterization: 20 November 2017 / General (Under Honorable Conditions)

4. SERVICE DETAILS:

a. Date / Period of Reenlistment: 5 November 2015 / 3 years

b. Age at Reenlistment / Education / GT Score: 28 / Baccalaureate Degree / 104

c. Highest Grade Achieved / MOS / Total Service: E-5 / 68X10, Behavioral Health Specialist / 5 years, 24 days

d. Prior Service / Characterizations: None

e. Overseas Service / Combat Service: None

f. Awards and Decorations: AAM-2, AGCM, NDSM, GWTSM, NCOPDR, ASR

g. Performance Ratings:

- 1 November 2014 – 31 October 2015 / Fully Capable
- 10 February 2016 – 8 February 2017 / Highly Qualified

h. Disciplinary Action(s) / Evidentiary Record:

(1) A memorandum, U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command (CID), Fort Sam Houston CID Office, subject: Law Enforcement Report, dated 26 January 2017, reflects the applicant as the named subject in violation of Article 112a (Wrongful Use of Marijuana), Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ)). The Report Summary reflects the CID office was notified by the applicant's company commander that the applicant tested positive for Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the active ingredient in Marijuana, during a unit urinalysis inspection conducted on 1 December 2016. The applicant requested counsel. On 23 January 2017, Captain A____ F____, Trial Counsel, Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, Joint Base San Antonio, TX, opined probable cause exists to believe the applicant committed the offense of Wrongful Use of Marijuana.

(2) A DA Form 2627 (Record of Proceedings under Article 15, UCMJ) dated 14 February 2017 reflects the applicant received nonjudicial punishment, in that they, did, at or near Joint Base San Antonio, TX, between on or about 1 November 2016 and on or about 1 December 2016, wrongfully use marijuana, in violation of Article 112a, UCMJ. The applicant's punishment consisted of a reduction in rank/grade from sergeant/E-5 to specialist/E-4, forfeiture of \$1,216.00 pay for two months, extra duty for 45 days, restriction for 30 days and a written reprimand. The applicant elected not to appeal.

(3) A memorandum, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Troop Command, Brooke Army Medical Center, subject: Separation under Army Regulation 635-200,

Paragraph 14-12c(2), Misconduct-Abuse of Illegal Drugs, [Applicant], dated 17 May 2017, reflects the applicant received notification of the initiation of separation action against them from their company commander for Misconduct – Abuse of Illegal Drugs. The company commander recommended the applicant receive an Under Other Than Honorable Conditions discharge. On 17 June 2017, the applicant acknowledged receipt of their notification of separation and of the rights available to them.

(4) In the applicant's memorandum, subject: Election of Rights under Army Regulation 635-200, Paragraph 14-12c(2), Misconduct-Abuse of Illegal Drugs, [Applicant], dated 18 June 2017, the applicant acknowledged they have been advised by their consulting counsel of the basis for the contemplated action to separate them for Misconduct-Abuse of Illegal Drugs 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 consideration of their case by an administrative separation board and an appearance before the board. They accepted the opportunity to speak with an attorney. They understand they may expect to encounter substantial prejudice in civilian life if a General (Under Honorable Conditions) discharge is issued to them. They further understand that as the result of issuance of a discharge Under Other Than Honorable Conditions, they may be ineligible for many or all benefits as a veteran under both Federal and State laws. The indicated that they do not believe that they suffer from PTSD or Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) as a result of deployment overseas in support of a contingency operation during the previous 24 months.

(5) A memorandum, U.S. Army Trial Defense Service, Southwest, Fort Sam Houston Field Office, subject: Conditional Waiver – Administrative Separation regarding [Applicant], dated 1 November 2017, reflects the applicant acknowledges that they are entitled to have their case considered by an administrative separation board. Prior to completing this format, they have been afforded the opportunity to consult with appointed counsel and thereby voluntarily waived consideration of their case by an administrative separation board contingent upon them receiving a characterization of service or description of separation no less favorable than General (Under Honorable Conditions) discharge. They acknowledged that they are making this request of their own free will and have not been subjected to any coercion whatsoever by any person. They elected to submit statements in their own behalf. The applicant's Administrative Separation Board packet consisted of 15 Letters of Support, an Enlisted Record Brief, NCO Evaluation Reports, Developmental Counseling Forms, military awards and badges, certificates of achievement and appreciation, voluntary recognition, and military and civilian training certificates.

(6) A Conditional Waiver Chain of Command Recommendations, dated 3 November 2017 and 7 November 2017, reflects the applicant's chain of command's recommendations for approval of the applicant's Conditional Waiver request.

(a) The applicant's company commander states the applicant is an Army Substance Abuse Program (ASAP) failure. As an NCO, this is unacceptable and should take responsibility for their actions.

(b) The applicant's battalion commander states the applicant took responsibility for their Urinalysis failure and has mitigating personal factors, stress and dependency, which they are working to address. Performance has been without failure, but as a former NCO and Soldier, needs to be separated for their action.

(c) The applicant's brigade commander states the applicant's behavior is not consistent with Army Values. Mitigating factors are reasonable to separate under General (Under Honorable Conditions).

(7) A memorandum, Headquarters, U.S. Army North (Fifth Army), subject: Separation under Army Regulation 635-200, Paragraph 14-12c(2), Misconduct – Abuse of Illegal Drugs, Request for Conditional Waiver/Physical Disability Processing under Army Regulation 635-40 - [Applicant], dated 20 November 2017, the separation authority states –

(a) Upon reviewing the administrative separation packet, the Medical Evaluation Board proceedings, the request for a conditional waiver, and the chain of command recommendation pertaining to the applicant, the conditional waiver is approved. The recommendation to separate the applicant under the provisions of Army Regulation 635-200, paragraph 14-12c(2), Serious Misconduct – Abuse of Illegal Drugs is also approved.

(b) The applicant's service will be characterized as General (Under Honorable Conditions). Separation via medical channels is not appropriate and specifically disapproved.

(c) They specifically find that the applicant's medial condition was not and is not a substantial contributing cause of the applicant's misconduct forming the basis for separation under provisions of Army Regulation 635-200, paragraph 14-12c(2), Serious Misconduct – Abuse of Illegal Drugs. Other circumstances of the case do not warrant disability processing instead of, or in lieu of, further processing for administrative separation

(8) A DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) reflects the applicant was discharged on 12 December 2017, with 5 years and 24 days of net active service this period. The DD Form 214 show in –

- item 13 (Remarks) – in part, MEMBER HAS COMPLETED FIRST FULL TERM OF SERVICE
- item 24 (Character of Service) – General (Under Honorable Conditions)
- item 26 (Separation Code) – JKK
- item 27 (Reentry Code) – 4
- item 28 (Narrative Reason for Separation) – Misconduct (Drug Abuse)

(9) A memorandum, U.S. Army Inspector General Agency, subject: Response to Request for Army Inspector General Records for Official Use – [Applicant], dated 13 February 2024, reflects the Inspector General Records Release office searched the Army Inspector General database (Inspector General Action Request System) and did not locate any records.

i. Lost Time / Mode of Return: NA

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:** On 29 January 2024 the Army Review Boards Agency requested the applicant provide their medical documents to support their issue, as of this date there has been no response.

(2) AMHRR Listed:

- DA Form 3822 (Report of Mental Status Evaluation) reflecting a diagnosis of Adjustment Disorder with Mixed Anxiety and Depressed Mood and a history of Alcohol Dependence

- Medical Evaluation Board Narrative Summary reflecting a diagnosis of Bipolar Disorder not meeting retention standards
- Integrated Disability Evaluation System Narrative Summary reflecting a diagnosis of Bipolar Disorder, disqualifying
- DA Form 3349 (Physical Profile Record) reflecting a permanent profile for Bipolar Disorder
- DA Form 3947 (Medical Evaluation Board Proceedings) reflecting a diagnosis of Bipolar Disorder with an approximate date of origin of 4 May 2015, incurred while entitled to base pay and did not exist prior to service

5. APPLICANT-PROVIDED EVIDENCE:

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Records under the Provisions of Title 10, U.S. Code, Section 1552)
- DD Form 293 (Application for the Review of Discharge from the Armed Forces of the United States)

6. POST SERVICE ACCOMPLISHMENTS: The applicant works full time while seeking care and potentially advanced education.

7. STATUTORY, REGULATORY AND POLICY REFERENCE(S):

a. Title 10, U.S. Code, Section 1553, (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, Title 10, U.S. Code, Section 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; Title 10, U.S. Code, Section 1553; and DoD Directive 1332.41 and DoD Instruction 1332.28.

f. Army Regulation 600-85 (Army Substance Abuse Program (ASAP)) governs the program and identifies Army policy on alcohol and other drug abuse, and responsibilities. The ASAP is a command program that emphasizes readiness and personal responsibility. The ultimate decision regarding separation or retention of abusers is the responsibility of the Soldier's chain of command. Abuse of alcohol or the use of illicit drugs by military personnel is inconsistent with Army values and the standards of performance, discipline, and readiness necessary to accomplish the Army's mission. Unit commanders must intervene early and refer all Soldiers suspected or identified as alcohol and/or drug abusers to the ASAP. The unit commander should recommend enrollment based on the Soldier's potential for continued military service in terms of professional skills, behavior, and potential for advancement.

g. Army Regulation 635-200 (Active Duty Enlisted Administrative Separations), 19 December 2016, prescribed policies and standards to ensure the readiness and competency of the force while providing for the orderly administrative separation of Soldiers for a variety of reasons.

(1) 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) 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.

(3) A Under Other Than Honorable Conditions Discharge is an administrative separation from the Service under conditions other than honorable. It may be issued for misconduct, fraudulent entry, security reasons, or in lieu of trial by court-martial.

(4) Paragraph 1-17 (Counseling and Rehabilitative Requirements) stated Army leaders at all levels must be continually aware of their obligation to provide purpose, direction, and motivation to Soldiers. It is essential that Soldiers who falter, but have the potential to serve honorably and well, be given every opportunity to succeed. The rehabilitative transfer requirements in chapter 14 may be waived by the separation authority in circumstances where common sense and sound judgment indicate that such transfer will serve no useful purpose or produce a quality Soldier.

(5) Chapter 14 (Separation for Misconduct) established policy and prescribed procedures for separating members for misconduct. Action will be taken to separate a member for misconduct when it is clearly established that rehabilitation is impractical or unlikely to succeed. Paragraph 14-12c(2) (Abuse of Illegal Drugs is Serious Misconduct), stated, however; relevant facts may mitigate the nature of the offense. Therefore, a single drug abuse offense may be combined with one or more minor disciplinary infractions or incidents of other misconduct and processed for separation. 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.

(6) Chapter 15 (Secretarial Plenary Authority), currently in effect, 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 "JKK" as the appropriate code to assign enlisted Soldiers who are discharged under the provisions of Army Regulation 635-200, Chapter 14, paragraph 12c(2), misconduct (drug abuse).

i. 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 DoD

Instructions 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.

j. Manual for Courts-Martial, United States (2019 Edition) stated, 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 order and discipline in the Armed Forces. Appendix 12 (Maximum Punishment Chart) Manual for Courts-Martial shows the maximum punishments include punitive discharge for violating Article 112a (Wrongful Use, Possession, etc., of Controlled Substances).

8. SUMMARY OF FACT(S):

a. The Army Discharge Review Board considers applications for upgrade as instructed by Department of Defense Instruction 1332.28.

b. A review of the available evidence provides the applicant received nonjudicial punishment under the provisions of Article 15 UCMJ, for testing positive for marijuana, requested a Conditional Waiver contingent upon receiving a General (Under Honorable Conditions) discharge and was involuntary separation from the Army. The applicant's DD Form 214 indicates their discharge under the provisions of Army Regulation 635-200, paragraph 14-12c(2), by reason of Misconduct (Drug Abuse), with a characterization of service of General (Under Honorable Conditions). The applicant completed 5 years and 24 days of net active service this period and completed their first full term of service; however, they did not complete their 3-year reenlistment obligation.

c. Chapter 14 establishes policy and prescribes procedures for separation 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 discharged under this chapter. However, the separation authority may direct a general discharge if such is merited by the Soldier's overall record. Characterization of service as honorable is not authorized unless the Soldier's record is otherwise so meritorious that any other characterization clearly would be inappropriate.

d. Published Department of Defense guidance indicates that the guidance is not intended to interfere or impede 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/experiences: Bipolar Disorder

(2) Did the condition exist, or experience occur during military service? **Yes.** The applicant is 100 percent service connected (SC) for Bipolar Disorder

(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 applicant has a BH condition that mitigates the misconduct outlined in the BoS. The applicant is 100 percent SC for Bipolar Disorder, and records support the condition originated during service. Given the nexus between Bipolar Disorder and the use of substances to self-medicate, the applicant's misconduct characterized by wrongful use of marijuana is mitigated and upgrade based on medical mitigation is supported.

(4) Does the condition or experience outweigh the discharge? **Yes.** Based on liberally considering all the evidence before the Board, the ADRB determined that the condition or experience outweighed the basis of separation (wrongful use of marijuana).

b. Prior Decisions Cited: None

c. Response to Contention(s):

(1) The applicant contends their first term of service was Honorable and they were only six months into their reenlistment period when they were diagnosed with PTSD and Bipolar Disorder. The Board determined that this contention was valid and voted to upgrade the characterization of service due to Bipolar disorder mitigating the applicant's drug abuse charges.

(2) The applicant contends they were diagnosed with Bipolar disorder before their administrative discharge proceedings started, and that there were things they told to the behavioral health personnel at that time they believe were seen by the official making the decision on their character of service. 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 Bipolar disorder fully outweighing the applicant's drug abuse basis for separation.

(3) The applicant contends after being released from the military they are having issues with education benefits regarding their character of service. The Board considered this contention and determined that eligibility for Veteran's benefits, to include educational benefits

under the Post-9/11 or Montgomery GI Bill, healthcare or VA loans, do not fall within the purview of the Army Discharge Review Board. Accordingly, the applicant should contact a local office of the Department of Veterans Affairs for further assistance.

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 considered the applicant's statement, record of service, the frequency and nature of misconduct, and the reason for separation. The Board concurred with the conclusion of the medical advising official that the applicant's medical diagnosis of Bipolar Disorder—100 percent service connected—mitigates the basis of separation. Given the nexus between bipolar disorder and the use of substances to self-medicate, the applicant's misconduct characterized by wrongful use of marijuana is mitigated and warrants a change to the character and narrative reason for separation. Based on a preponderance of evidence, the Board determined that the reason for the applicant's separation was inequitable. The Board voted to retain the reentry code based on the medical diagnosis.

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 Bipolar Disorder outweighed the applicant's misconduct of marijuana abuse. Thus, the prior characterization is no longer appropriate.

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

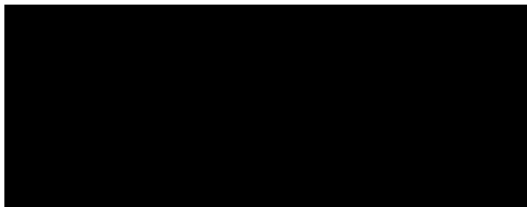
(4) The RE code will not change, as the current code is consistent with the procedural and substantive requirements of the regulation.

10. BOARD ACTION DIRECTED:

- a. Issue a New DD-214 / Separation Order: Yes
- b. Change Characterization to: Honorable
- 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:

1/28/2026



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

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