

1. Applicant's Name: [REDACTED]**a. Application Date:** 29 August 2023**b. Date Received:** 2 October 2023**c. Counsel:** [REDACTED]**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 Under Other Than Honorable Conditions. The applicant requests an upgrade of their characterization of service from the U.S. Army Reserve (USAR), a change in their separation code, reentry code, the narrative reason for separation, and a telephonic appearance before the Board. The applicant additionally requests correction of their DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) to reflect their service, position, and the correct Military Education.

(2) The applicant, through counsel, seeks relief contending their departure from the USAR occurred under mysterious circumstances. They were reduced in rank from private two/E-2 to private/E-1 and was discharged Under Other Than Honorable Conditions, yet no comprehensive explanation or supporting documentation has been provided to clarify the basis for this characterization. They consistently demonstrated exceptional performance in their duties when they joined the USAR. They were unaware of the circumstances surrounding their character of service and they received their order in the mail dated 14 December 2012 with the demotion and character of service. They are enthusiastic about commencing a new phase of their life as a pilot but is constrained by their current discharge status.

b. Board Type and Decision:

(1) The issues regarding the correction of the applicant's DD Form 214; corrections of the applicant's DD Form 214 are not within the purview of this Board. These issues should be addressed by the Army Board of Correction of Military Records (ABCMR). A DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Records under the Provisions of Title 10, U.S. Code, Section 1552) is enclosed for the applicant's use.

(2) In a telephonic personal appearance hearing conducted on 10 March 2025, and by a 3-2 vote, the Board determined that the characterization of service was inequitable based on the applicant's length of service and post service accomplishments outweighing the applicant's unsatisfactory participation basis for separation. Accordingly, the Board voted to grant relief in the form of an upgrade to the characterization of service to General, Under Honorable Conditions. The Board determined the narrative reason is proper and equitable as the applicant is accountable for the misconduct.

3. DISCHARGE DETAILS:

a. Reason / Authority / Codes / Characterization: Unsatisfactory Participation / Army Regulation 135-178, Chapter 13 / Under Other Than Honorable Conditions

b. Date of Discharge: 19 December 2012

c. Separation Facts:

(1) Date of Notification of Intent to Separate: 20 December 2011 [certified mail sent to last known address given by applicant to their unit]

(2) Basis for Separation: absent from at least nine Army Reserve training assemblies within a one-year period and failed to provide a valid reason for their absence.

(3) Recommended Characterization: Under Other Than Honorable Conditions

(4) Legal Consultation Date: NA

(5) Administrative Separation Board: NA

(6) Separation Decision Date / Characterization: 3 December 2012 / Under Other Than Honorable Conditions

4. SERVICE DETAILS:

a. Date / Period of Enlistment: 9 January 2009 / 8 years

b. Age at Enlistment / Education / GT Score: 18 / HS Diploma / 96

c. Highest Grade Achieved / MOS / Total Service: E-3 / 21W10, Carpentry and Masonry Specialist / 3 years, 11 months, and 11 days

d. Prior Service / Characterizations: NA

e. Overseas Service / Combat Service: NA

f. Awards and Decorations: NIF

g. Performance Ratings: NA

h. Disciplinary Action(s) / Evidentiary Record:

(1) A DA Form 3540 (Certificate and Acknowledgment USAR Service Requirements and Methods of Fulfillment) dated 9 January 2009, the applicant acknowledged their understating that as a member of the USAR, they must participate satisfactory during the entire period of their enlistment, reenlistment, immediate reenlistment, transfer, assignment, or reassignment in accordance with the rules and regulations now in effect, or which may hereafter be placed in effect, by the proper authority. As a member of a Selected Reserve Troop Program Unit (TPU) their satisfactory participation is determined by the following –

(a) They will serve as a member of a TPU for the entire period specified in the terms of their service agreement unless otherwise reassigned or separated by proper authority.

(b) They will be required to attend all scheduled unit training assemblies (at least 48 per year) unless they are excused by proper authority. If they accrue nine or more unexcused absences during a continuous 365-day period, they will be declared an unsatisfactory participant.

(c) They must keep their commander advised of their current mailing address, where they will receive official correspondence, and they must reply to and comply with all official orders and correspondence that they may receive.

(2) A memorandum, 465th Engineer Company, 2nd Platoon (Vertical Construction) subject: Letter of Instruction - - Unexcused Absence, dated 23 August 2011 reflects the applicant was notified of their absences from scheduled unit training assemblies, 1 August 2011 and 2 August 2011. The applicant accrued 24 unexcused absences within a 1-year period. A photographic copy of a Certified Mail Envelope reflects the letter was marked Return to Sender, Forward Time Expired.

(3) A memorandum, 465th Engineer Company, 2nd Platoon (Vertical Construction) subject: Letter of Instruction - - Unexcused Absence, dated 17 October 2011 reflects the applicant was notified of their absences from scheduled unit training assemblies, 1 October 2011 and 2 October 2011. The applicant accrued 26 unexcused absences within a 1-year period. A photographic copy of a Certified Mail Envelope reflects the letter was marked Return to Sender, Forward Time Expired.

(4) A memorandum, 465th Engineer Company, 2nd Platoon (Vertical Construction) subject: Letter of Instruction - - Unexcused Absence, dated 23 November 2011 reflects the applicant was notified of their absences from scheduled unit training assemblies, 1 November 2011 and 2 November 2011. The applicant accrued 22 unexcused absences within a 1-year period. A photographic copy of a Certified Mail Envelope reflects the letter was marked Return to Sender Not Deliverable as Addressed, Unable to Forward.

(5) A memorandum, 465th Engineer Company, 2nd Platoon (Vertical Construction), 926th Engineer Battalion, subject: Notification of Separation Proceedings under Army Regulation 135-178, Chapter 13, dated 20 December 2011, the applicant's company commander attempted to notify the applicant of their initiating action to separate them from the USAR for being absent from at least nine USAR training assemblies within a one-year period and failed to provide a valid reason for their absence. The commander recommended the applicant receive an Under Other Than Honorable Conditions characterization of service. The enclosed memorandum, subject: Notification of Separation Proceedings under Army Regulation 135-178, Chapter 13, reflects no entries from the applicant acknowledging receipt of notification.

(6) An Affidavit of Service by Mail dated 20 December 2011, reflects the applicant's unit administrator states they mailed the Notification of Separation memorandum via certified mail, return receipt requested, to the applicant's last known address giving to their unit. A photographic copy of the certified letter reflects a status of Return to Sender, Not Deliverable as Addressed, Unable to Forward.

(7) A memorandum, 465th Engineer Company, 2nd Platoon (Vertical Construction) subject: Letter of Instruction - - Unexcused Absence, dated 27 January 2012 reflects the applicant was notified of their absences from scheduled unit training assemblies, 1 January 2012 and 2 January 2012. The applicant accrued 24 unexcused absences within a 1-year period. A photographic copy of a Certified Mail Envelope reflects the letter was marked Return to Unclaimed, Unable to Forward.

(8) In the applicant's letter, undated, they state the letter explains the reason as to why they have missed duty off and on throughout the past 12 months. They have a one-year old child who has been sick and been to the hospital a lot since their birth. They do not have a person to watch their child when they have them at times. The child's mother and they are not

always on the best of terms which adds to the situation and it has been emotionally stressful. They have also been physically sick. There are days when they just cannot get up and have had to call into their day job on some occasions because they just felt too bad to get up. A third issue, they have also used to work at the university as a technician and was asked on many occasions to work. Financially, everything has been stressful and they have even had to move three times in one year. They have finally got this issue resolved. They wish to continue their military career and wish to work with their chain of command on this and would like to stay if given the chance.

(9) A memorandum, 465th Engineer Company, 2nd Platoon (Vertical Construction), subject: Commander's Report for Separation under Army Regulation 135-178, Chapter 13, dated 2 February 2012, the applicant's company commander submitted a request to separate them from the USAR prior to their expiration of their military service and their service be characterized as Under Other Than Honorable Conditions. The company commander states –

(a) The applicant failed to satisfactorily attend scheduled training assemblies with the unit. They provided no valid reason for their absence from the training assemblies, indicating it is not feasible or appropriate to accomplish other disposition of this case. They provided no response to the memorandum of notification. They do not feel they have the potential to perform useful service if ordered to active duty to meet mobilization requirements.

(b) The applicant's current reported home address is [same as their four Letters of Instruction - - Unexcused Absence and memorandum of notification]. The memorandum of notification and Soldier's response by endorsement, or record of result of delivery by certified mail (including inability to deliver, refusal to accept, and failure or refusal to respond) are attached as enclosures.

(10) A memorandum, Headquarters, 926th Engineer Battalion, subject: Unsatisfactory Participation Packet 465th Engineer Company, [Applicant], dated 13 July 2012, reflects the applicant's battalion commander has reviewed the packet and recommended approval of the Under Other Than Honorable Conditions discharge request.

(11) A memorandum, 926th Engineer Brigade, subject: Unsatisfactory Participation Packet for [Applicant], dated 7 August 2012, reflects the applicant's brigade commander has reviewed the packet and recommended approval of the Under Other Than Honorable Conditions discharge request.

(12) A memorandum, Headquarters, 412th Theater Engineer Command, subject: Separation under Army Regulation 135-178, Chapter 13 – Unsatisfactory Participation, [Applicant], dated 3 December 2012, reflects the separation authority carefully considered the enclosed separation packet and recommendations of the chain of command that the applicant be considered for separation from the Army prior to the expiration of their current term of service, under the provisions of Army Regulation 135-178, chapter 13. The separation authority directed the applicant be discharged with a characterization of service as Under Other Than Honorable Conditions discharge and reduced in rank/grade from private first class/E-3 to private/E-1.

(13) A review of the applicant's Soldier Management Services – WEB Portal (SMS WEB) Retirement Points Detail reflects the applicant attended their units assemblies in 2012 earning 38 points (19 days of unit drills) and no Active Duty Points.

(14) Headquarters, 81st Regional Support Command Orders 12-349-00005, dated 14 December 2012, reduced the applicant in rank/grade from private first class/E-3 to

private/E-1, effective 14 December 2012 and discharged them from the USAR with the type of charge of Under Other Than Honorable Conditions, effective 19 December 2012, under the authority of Army Regulation 135-178.

(15) A Certificate of Live Birth dated 4 January 2013, provided by the applicant, reflects the birth of their child on 2 January 2013.

(16) A review to the applicant's SMS WEB cases, reflects the applicant updated their home phone number on 17 July 2012 and updated their address on 29 May 2019.

(17) A DA Form 5016 (Chronological Statement of Retirement Points) dated 24 February 2025, reflects the applicant's updated address and –

- from 10 January 2010 – 9 January 2011, the applicant was credit with 32 Inactive Duty Points (16 days of unit drills) and 14 days Active Duty Points
- from 10 January 2011 – 9 January 2012, the applicant was credit with 26 Inactive Duty Points (13 days of unit drills) and 14 days Active Duty Points
- from 10 January 2012 – 19 December 2012, the applicant was credit with 38 Inactive Duty Points (19 days of unit drills) and no Active Duty Points

i. Lost Time / Mode of Return: NIF

j. Behavioral Health Condition(s): None

5. APPLICANT-PROVIDED EVIDENCE:

- DD Form 293 (Application for the Review of Discharge from the Armed Forces of the United States)
- Counsel's Brief in Support of Military Upgrade with 18 exhibits

6. POST SERVICE ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Civilian Training certificates – Federal Emergency Management Institute; Virtual Academy; Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials Institute; and the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency; and was awarded a Lifeline Luminary certificate, exhibiting the company core values.

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, 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. Multiple Department of Defense (DoD) 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 [Kurta 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) 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, DoD Directive 1332.41, and DoD Instruction 1332.28.

d. Army Regulation 135-91 (Service Obligations, Methods of Fulfillment, Participation Requirements, and Enforcement Procedures) defines ARNG of the United States and USAR service obligations. It prescribed policies and procedures governing the various types of service obligations and participation requirements. Chapter 4 (Absences) governed absences from Ready Reserve training. Unsatisfactory participation stated a Soldier is an unsatisfactory participant when nine or more unexcused absences from scheduled inactive duty training occur during a 1-year period. Paragraph 4-15 (Documentation of Unexcused Absences) stated a prescribed letter of instructions – unexcused absence will be delivered to the Soldier, delivery will be either in person or by U.S. mail. When certified mail is used, a copy of the notice and

either a post office receipt confirming delivery or the returned unopened envelope showing the notice was not delivered. Mail sent to the mailing address on file as provided by the Soldier, which is refused, unclaimed, or otherwise not delivered may not be used as defense against unexcused absences when notices were correctly addressed to the address on file provided by the Soldier.

e. Army Regulation 135-178 (Enlisted Administrative Separations) dated 13 April 2007, set policies, standards, and procedures to ensure the readiness and competency of the U.S. Army while providing for the orderly administrative separation of ARNG of the United States and USAR enlisted Soldiers for a variety of reasons.

(1) An honorable characterization 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. When a Soldier is discharged before expiration of the service obligation for a reason for which an honorable characterization is discretionary, the following considerations apply, to include –

(a) An honorable characterization may be awarded when disqualifying entries in the Soldier's military record are outweighed by subsequent honorable and faithful service over a greater period of time during the current term of service.

(b) It is a pattern of behavior and not an isolated instance which should be considered the governing factor in determining the character of service.

(c) Unless otherwise ineligible, a Soldier may receive an honorable characterization of service if he or she has, during his or her current enlistment, or any extension thereof, received a personal decoration.

(2) A General discharge is if a Soldier's service has been honest and faithful, it is appropriate to characterize that service as under honorable conditions. Characterization of service as general (under honorable conditions) is warranted when significant negative aspect of the Soldier's conduct or performance of duty outweighs positive aspects of the Soldier's military record.

(3) A Under Other Than Honorable Conditions Discharge, service may, but is not required to be characterized as under other than honorable conditions only when discharge is for misconduct, fraudulent entry, homosexual conduct, unsatisfactory participation, or security reasons. When a Soldier is to be discharged under other than honorable conditions, the separation authority will direct an immediate reduction to private/E-1.

(4) Chapter 13 (Unsatisfactory Participation in the Ready Reserve) stated a Soldier is subject to discharge for unsatisfactory participation when it is determined that the Soldier is unqualified for further military service because the Soldier is an unsatisfactory participant and attempts to have the Soldier respond or comply with orders or correspondence. Characterization of service normally will be under other than honorable conditions, but characterization as general (under honorable conditions) may be warranted. For Soldiers who have completed entry level status, 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.

(5) Paragraph 13-1 (Basis) stated, a Soldier is subject to discharge for unsatisfactory participation when it is determined that the Soldier is unqualified for further military service

because: the Soldier is an unsatisfactory participant as prescribed in Army Regulation 135-91, chapter 4; and attempts to have the Soldier respond or comply with orders or correspondence have resulted in the Soldier's refusal to comply with order or correspondence; or a notice sent by certified mail was refused, unclaimed, or otherwise undeliverable; or verification that the Soldier has failed to notify the command of a change of address and reasonable attempts to contact the Soldier have failed.

(6) Paragraph 13-3 (Characterization of Service) stated characterization of service normally will be Under Other Than Honorable Conditions, but characterization as General (Under Honorable Conditions) may be warranted. For Soldiers who have completed entry level status, 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. In such cases, separation for unsatisfactory participation with an Honorable characterization will be approved by the separation authority.

f. Army Regulation 135-180 (Retirement for Non-Regular Service) dated 1 August 1987, implemented statutory authorities governing the granting of retired pay to Soldiers and former reserve component Soldiers. Paragraph 2-10 (Computation of Service) stated one point for each authorized participation in drills or period of instruction which conform to the requirements prescribed by the Secretary of the Army.

g. Army Regulation 635-200 (Active Duty Enlisted Administrative Separations) prescribes 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. It prescribes the policies, procedures, authority for separation of Soldiers, and the general provisions governing the separation of Soldiers before Expiration Term of Service or fulfillment of active duty obligation to meet the needs of the Army and its Soldiers. Chapter 15 (Secretarial Plenary Authority) 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.

h. Army Regulation 635-8 (Separation Processing and Documents) prescribes the transition processing function of the military personnel system. It provides principles of support, standards of service, policies, tasks, rules, and steps governing required actions in the field to support processing personnel for separation and preparation of separation documents.

a. Paragraph 5-1 (When to Prepare the DD Form 214) states that a DD Form 214 will be prepared for Reserve Component Soldiers completing active duty that results in the award of a Military Occupational Specialty, even when the active duty period was less than 90 days (for example, completion of the advanced individual training component of ARNGUS Alternate Training Program or USAR Split Training Program).

b. Paragraph 5-6x(1) states: when a Reserve Component Soldier successfully completes initial active duty training the character of service is Honorable unless directed otherwise by the separation approval authority."

8. SUMMARY OF FACT(S):

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

b. A review of the available evidence provides the applicant was declared an Unsatisfactory Participant and was involuntary separation from the USAR. Their discharge order from the USAR provides the applicant was discharged with a character of service of under other than honorable conditions. They completed 3 years, 11 months, and 11 days of their 8-year contractual USAR obligation and did not complete their first full term of service.

c. Army Regulation 135-178, chapter 13 establishes policy and prescribes procedures for separation members for unsatisfactory participation. 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.

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. DOCUMENTS / TESTIMONY PRESENTED DURING PERSONAL APPEARANCE: In addition to the evidence in the record, the Board carefully considered the additional document(s) and testimony presented by the applicant at the personal appearance hearing.

a. **The applicant submitted the following additional document(s):** N/A.

b. **The applicant presented the following additional contention(s):** Applicant and counsel provided oral arguments in support of the contentions they provided in their written submissions and in support of their documentary evidence.

c. **Counsel / Witness(es) / Observer(s):** [REDACTED]

10. 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? **No.** The Board's Medical Advisor reviewed DoD and VA medical records and found no mitigating BH diagnoses on the applicant. The applicant provided no documents or testimony of a condition or experience, that, when applying liberal consideration, could have excused, or mitigated a discharge.

(2) Did the condition exist, or experience occur during military service? **N/A.**

(3) Does the condition or experience actually excuse or mitigate the discharge? **N/A.**

(4) Does the condition or experience outweigh the discharge? **N/A.**

b. **Response to Contention(s):**

(1) The applicant contends they were discharged with an Other Than Honorable Conditions character of service because of a mix up of being discharged from their unit into the IRR.

The Board considered this contention during proceedings. The Board determined an upgrade was warranted based on the applicant's length of service and post service accomplishments outweighing the applicant's unsatisfactory participation basis for separation.

(2) The applicant contends they were under the impression that they did not have to report to monthly drills because they completed their 6 years of active reserve duty and was supposed to be transferred to the IRR.

The Board considered this contention during proceedings.

c. The Board determined that the characterization of service was inequitable based on the applicant's length of service and post service accomplishments outweighing the applicant's unsatisfactory participation basis for separation. Accordingly, the Board voted to grant relief in the form of an upgrade to the characterization of service to General (Under Honorable Conditions). The Board determined the narrative reason is proper and equitable as the applicant is accountable for the misconduct. The applicant has exhausted their appeal options available with ADRB. However, the applicant may still apply to the Army Board for Correction of Military Records. 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.

d. Rationale for Decision:

(1) The Board voted to change the applicant's characterization of service to General (Under Honorable Conditions) because the applicant's length of service and post service accomplishments outweighed the applicant's misconduct of Unsatisfactory Participation (absent from at least 9 Army Reserve training assemblies within a one-year period and failed to provide a valid reason for absence).

(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 there is no RE-code listed on the applicant's discharge paperwork, due to being in the Army Reserves, therefore no upgrade actions are required for this item.

ARMY DISCHARGE REVIEW BOARD CASE REPORT AND DIRECTIVE

AR20210015021

11. BOARD ACTION DIRECTED:

- a. Issue a New Separation Order: Yes
- b. Change Characterization to: General (Under Honorable Conditions)
- c. Change Authority to: AR 135-178

Authenticating Official:

4/15/2025



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