

1. Applicant's Name: [REDACTED]**a. Application Date:** 28 September 2023**b. Date Received:** 25 October 2023**c. Counsel:** None**2. REQUEST, ISSUES, BOARD TYPE, AND DECISION:**

a. Applicant's Requests and Issues: The current characterization of service for the period under review is under honorable conditions (general). The applicant requests an upgrade to honorable, and a narrative reason change.

The applicant states in effect, they would like to continue their education so that they may obtain a degree with hopes of having a career, so that they will have steady work to support their spouse and children.

b. Board Type and Decision: In a telephonic personal appearance conducted on 15 July 2024, and by a 5-0 vote, the Board determined the discharge was inequitable and voted to grant relief in the form of an upgrade of the characterization of service to Honorable, changed 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, and the reentry code to RE-1.

Please see Section 10 of this document for more detail regarding the Board's decision.

3. DISCHARGE DETAILS:

a. Reason / Authority / Codes / Characterization: Pattern Of Misconduct / AR 635-200 / JKA / RE-3 / Under Honorable Conditions (General).

b. Date of Discharge: 18 July 2012

c. Separation Facts:

(1) Date of Notification of Intent to Separate: 11 June 2012

(2) Basis for Separation: On several occasions the applicant failed to go to their appointed place of duty.

(3) Recommended Characterization: General, under honorable conditions.

(4) Legal Consultation Date: Waived consultation 11 June 2012.

(5) Administrative Separation Board: N/A

(6) Separation Decision Date / Characterization: 28 June 2012 / General, under honorable conditions.

4. SERVICE DETAILS:

a. Date / Period of Enlistment: 3 February 2010 / 3 years, 24 weeks

b. Age at Enlistment / Education / GT Score: 20 / High School Graduate / 95

c. Highest Grade Achieved / MOS / Total Service: E-3 / 91C10 Utilities Equipment Repairer / 2 years, 5 months, 16 days.

d. Prior Service / Characterizations: None.

e. Overseas Service / Combat Service: None.

f. Awards and Decorations: NDSM, GWTSM, ASR

g. Performance Ratings: N/A

h. Disciplinary Action(s) / Evidentiary Record:

(1) Record of Proceedings UCMJ dated 10 November 2011 provides the applicant received a NJP for violating Article 134 of the UCMJ. They wrongfully had sexual intercourse with a married woman on or about 10 June 2011. Punishment consisted of reduction in rank to E-2, and a written reprimand.

(2) On 28 November 2011 the suspension of their punishment was vacated after the applicant failed to go to their appointed placed of duty; violating Article 86 of the UCMJ.

(3) On 9 May 2012 the applicant received a NJP for violating Article 86 of the UCMJ. On 24 February 2012 without authority, they were absent from their unit and remained absent until 1 March 2012. Additionally, on 16 April 2012 the applicant failed to go at the time prescribed to their appointed placed of duty. Punishment consisted of reduction in rank to E-1, forfeiture of \$745 pay per month for two months, oral reprimand, extra duty, and restriction for 45 days.

(4) A Report of Medical Examination document dated 5 April 2012, provides the applicant received a separation medical examination and were seeing behavioral health for depression.

(5) A Report of Mental Status Evaluation document dated 1 May 2012 provides the applicant received a separation mental health evaluation that cleared them for administrative separation.

(6) On 11 June 2012 the applicant's immediate commander notified them of their intent to separate them for Patterns of Misconduct. The commander recommended a General (under honorable conditions) characterization of service. The applicant acknowledged the commander's notification and basis for separation, they waived consulting with counsel and completed their election of rights indicating they understood the prejudices that may occur in receiving a characterization of service less than honorable.

(7) On 18 June 2012 the chain of command endorsed and concurred with the commander's discharge recommendation and on 28 June 2012 the appropriate authority approved the separation and directed a General, under honorable conditions characterization of service.

(8) A Certificate Of Release Or Discharge From Active Duty document provides the applicant were discharged on 18 July 2012, they completed 2 years, 7 months, and 18 days of their contractual obligation.

i. **Lost Time / Mode of Return:** None.

j. **Behavioral Health Condition(s):**

(1) **Applicant provided:**

(2) **AMHRR Listed:** Depression, Adjustment Disorder, Cannabis Abuse.

5. **APPLICANT-PROVIDED EVIDENCE:** DD Form 293 (Discharge Review) application.

6. **POST SERVICE ACCOMPLISHMENTS:** None submitted in support of their petition.

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. Multiple Department of Defense Policy Guidance Memoranda published between 2014 and 2018. The documents are commonly referred to by the signatory authorities' last names (2014 Secretary of Defense Guidance [Hagel memo], 2016 Acting Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness [Carson memo], 2017 Official Performing the Duties of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness [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), dated 25 September 2019, sets forth the policies and procedures under which the Army Discharge Review Board is authorized to review the character, reason, and authority of any Servicemember discharged from active military service within 15 years of the Servicemember's date of discharge. Additionally, it prescribes actions and composition of the Army Discharge Review Board under Public Law 95-126; Section 1553, Title 10 United States Code; and Department of Defense Directive 1332.41 and Instruction 1332.28.

d. Army Regulation 635-200 provides the basic authority for the separation of enlisted personnel provides the authorized types of characterization of service or description of separation.

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

(4) Except as otherwise indicated in this regulation, commanders must make maximum use of counseling and rehabilitation before determining that a Soldier has no potential for further useful service and, therefore, should be separated. In this regard, commanders will ensure that adequate counseling and rehabilitative measures are taken before initiating separation proceedings for the following reasons:

- Involuntary separation due to parenthood
- Personality disorder
- Other designated physical or mental conditions

- Entry-level performance and conduct
- Unsatisfactory performance
- Minor disciplinary infractions or a pattern of misconduct
- Failure to meet body fat standards

(5) Chapter 14 establishes policy and prescribes procedures for separating members for misconduct. Specific categories include minor disciplinary infractions, a pattern of misconduct, and commission of a serious offense, to include abuse of illegal drugs, convictions by civil authorities and desertion or being absent without leave. Action will be taken to separate a member for misconduct when it is clearly established that rehabilitation is impractical or unlikely to succeed. A discharge under other than honorable conditions is normally appropriate for a Soldier discharged under this chapter. However, the separation authority may direct a general discharge if such is merited by the Soldier's overall record. A soldier subject to this discharge under this regulation will be considered and processed for discharge even though he/she has filed an appeal or has stated his/her intention to do so. Paragraph 14-12b provides for the separation of Soldiers when they have a pattern of misconduct involving acts of discreditable involvement with civil or military authorities and conduct which is prejudicial to good order and discipline.

(6) 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.

e. Army Regulation 635-5-1 (Separation Program Designator (SPD) Codes) provides the specific authorities (regulatory or directive), reasons for separating Soldiers from active duty, and the SPD codes to be entered on the DD Form 214. It identifies the SPD code of "JKA" as the appropriate code to assign enlisted Soldiers who are discharged under the provisions of Army Regulation 635-200, Chapter 14, paragraph 12b, pattern of misconduct.

f. Army Regulation 601-210, Regular Army, and Reserve Components Enlistment Program, governs eligibility criteria, policies, and procedures for enlistment and processing of persons into the Regular Army, the U.S. Army Reserve, and Army National Guard for enlistment per DODI 1304.26. It also prescribes the appointment, reassignment, management, and mobilization of Reserve Officers' Training Corps cadets under the Simultaneous Membership Program. Chapter 4 provides the criteria and procedures for waiverable and nonwaiverable separations. Table 3-1, defines reentry eligibility (RE) codes:

(1) RE-1 Applies to: Person completing his or her term of active service who is considered qualified to reenter the U.S. Army. Eligibility: Qualified for enlistment if all other criteria are met.

(2) RE-3 Applies to: Person who is not considered fully qualified for reentry or continuous service at time of separation, but disqualification is waiverable. Eligibility: Ineligible unless a waiver is granted.

(3) RE-4 Applies to: Person separated from last period of service with a nonwaiverable disqualification. This includes anyone with a DA imposed bar to reenlistment in effect at time of separation or separated for any reason (except length of service retirement) with 18 or more years active Federal service. Eligibility: Ineligible for enlistment.

8. SUMMARY OF FACT(S): The Army Discharge Review Board considers applications for upgrade as instructed by Department of Defense Instruction 1332.28.

a. The applicant requests an upgrade to honorable. The applicant's DD Form 214 provides that the applicant received a General (under honorable conditions) characterization of service, rather than an under other than honorable conditions discharge, which is normally considered appropriate for a soldier discharged for misconduct.

b. Based on the available evidence, the applicant received two non-judicial punishments in a six month time frame after various acts of misconduct. They were processed for administrative separation after failing to go to their appointed place of duty on several occasions.

c. The applicant was notified of the intent to separate them for patterns of misconduct and acknowledged they understood the basis for separation under the provisions AR 635-200, CH 14-12b, they waived consulting with counsel and the appropriate authority approved the separation. Evidence provides the applicant received the required medical and mental health separation examinations. A DD Form 214 shows they were discharged with an under honorable conditions (general) characterization of service on 18 July 2012.

d. Chapter 14 establishes policy and prescribes procedures for members being separated 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.

e. 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):

b. The applicant presented the following additional contention(s):

c. Counsel / Witness(es) / Observer(s):

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? **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: Depressive

DO, unspecified. [Note-Adjustment DO, unspecified; Adjustment DO with depressed mood and Suicidal Ideations are subsumed under diagnosis of Depressive DO, unspecified.]

(2) Did the condition exist, or experience occur during military service? **Yes.** The Board's Medical Advisor found that Depressive DO occurred during military service.

(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 applicant has a BH condition which mitigates some of his misconduct. While on active duty, he was diagnosed with Adjustment DO with depressed mood. Record review, however, indicates that he more likely than not was suffering from Depressive Disorder, unspecified. As there is an association between Depressive DO, avoidant behavior and self-medication with illicit substances, there is a nexus between this condition and his multiple FTRs and positive UA for THC. Depressive DO does not mitigate his offense of committing adultery as Depressive DO does not affect one's ability to distinguish right from wrong and act in accordance with the right.

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

b. Prior Decisions Cited: None.

c. Response to Contention(s): None.

d. The Board determined the discharge was inequitable and voted to grant relief in the form of an upgrade of the characterization of service to Honorable, changed 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, and the reentry code to RE-1.

e. Rationale for Decision:

(1) The Board voted to change the applicant's characterization of service based on the following reasons. 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 found sufficient evidence of in-service mitigating factors (Length) and concurred with the conclusion of the medical advising official that the applicant's (Depressive DO) does mitigate the applicant's misconduct (FTRs, Positive UA). Based on a preponderance of evidence, the Board determined that the character of service the applicant received upon separation was inequitable.

(2) 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.

ARMY DISCHARGE REVIEW BOARD CASE REPORT AND DIRECTIVE

AR20230015050

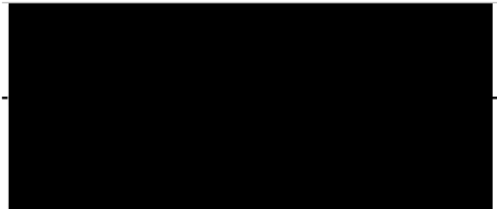
(3) The RE code will change to RE-1.

11. BOARD ACTION DIRECTED:

- a. Issue a New DD-214: Yes
- b. Change Characterization to: Honorable
- c. Change Reason / SPD Code to: Misconduct (Minor Infractions)/JKN
- d. Change RE Code to: RE-3
- e. Change Authority to: AR 635-200

Authenticating Official:

4/3/2025



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