

1. Applicant's Name: [REDACTED]**a. Application Date:** 12 December 2023**b. Date Received:** 18 December 2023**c. Counsel:** None**2. REQUEST, ISSUES, BOARD TYPE, AND DECISION:**

a. Applicant Requests: The current characterization of service for the period under review is honorable. The applicant requests a change of the narrative reason for separation and the separation code.

b. Applicant Contention(s)/Issue(s): The applicant requests relief, asserting the applicant has struggled with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI), and other mental health conditions since 2003. These conditions stem from multiple traumatic experiences during Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF). According to the applicant's Officer Record Brief (ORB), the applicant completed five short deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan between 2005 and 2007. The applicant explains experiencing significant mental health challenges during military service and after separation. The applicant states it took many years before being able to seek professional treatment. The applicant further contends that their chain of command did not provide a clear or adequate explanation for their involuntary separation.

c. Board Type and Decision: In a records review conducted on 5 February 2026, and by a 3-0 vote, the Board determined the narrative reason for the applicant's separation is inequitable based on the applicant's Generalized Anxiety Disorder, PTSD, TBI, and Depressive Disorder outweighed not being selected for a promotion and there being no misconduct on file. Therefore, the Board directed the issue of a new DD Form 214 changing the separation authority to AR 15-180, and the narrative reason for separation to Secretarial Authority, with a corresponding separation code to KFF. 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: Not in the available evidence.

a. Reason / Authority / Codes / Characterization: Non-Selection, Permanent Promotion / AR 600-8-24, Paragraph 2-37 / LGB / NA / Honorable

b. Date of Discharge: 1 March 2017**c. Separation Facts:** Not in the available evidence**(1) Date of Notification of Intent to Separate:** NIF

(2) Basis for Separation: The applicant was required to Show Cause for retention due to adverse information filed in the Official Military Performance File (OMPF) in accordance with AR 600-37. The action was based on specific reasons or elimination: NIF

(3) Board of Inquiry (BOI) Date: NIF**(4) Legal Consultation Date:** NIF

(5) GOSCA Recommendation Date / Characterization: NIF

(6) DA Board of Review for Eliminations: On____, the Army Board of Review for Eliminations considered the GOSCA's request to involuntarily separate the applicant for unacceptable conduct in accordance with AR 600-8-24, Paragraph 2-37. NIF

(7) DASA Review Board Decision Date / Characterization: NIF**4. SERVICE DETAILS:**

a. Date / Period of Appointment: 23 June 2012 / 6 Years

b. Age at Appointment / Education: 29 years / Bachelor's Degree

c. Highest Grade Achieved / AOC / Total Service: 1LT / 70B 5P (Health Services Administration), 67A 5P (Health Services) / 4 years, 8 months, 9 days

d. Prior Service / Characterizations: RA / 4 years, 11 months, 5 days / HD
NMARNG / 5 years, 1 month, 21 days / HD

e. Overseas Service / Combat Service: None / [the following are approximate dates based on the ending dates listed on the ORB] SWA, Afghanistan (_ April 2007 – 2 July 2007; Iraq _ July – 30 September 2006; Afghanistan, _ October 2005 – 12 January 2006; Iraq, _ January – 12 April 2005; Afghanistan, _ April 2004 – 10 July 2004)

OEF; Afghanistan, 20004006-20040710, 20051004-20060112, 20070330-20070702 and OIF; Iraq; 20050104-20050412, 20060707-20060930

f. Awards and Decorations: ACM-2CS, ICM-2CS, ARCOM, AAM, JMU Award, AGCM, NDSM, GWOTSM, NCOPD Ribbon, ASR, OSR-(2d Award), Ranger Tab, CAB, Parachutist Badge.

g. Performance Ratings: 17 August 2016 – 12 December 2016 / Highly Qualified

h. Disciplinary Action(s) / Evidentiary Record: NIF

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 Disability Rating Decision, 6 July 2023, provides the applicant received a 70 percent rating for PTSD, effective 2 February 2023, and a combined rating of 90 percent. The applicant also provided a My HealtheVet Personal Information Report showing a "Diagnostic and Statistical Manual Five (DSM- 5) diagnosis of major depressive disorder (MDD) severe without psychotic features, obsessive-compulsive personality disorder (OCPD), cluster A PD, PTSD 2/2 combat, alcohol use disorder (AUD) moderate in early remission, history of suicide rehearsal behavior/near attempts and history of SI with plan."

(2) AMHRR provided: None

5. APPLICANT-PROVIDED EVIDENCE: Personal Statement, Discharge Documents, VA Rating/Benefits Information, and a My HealtheVet Personal Information Report.

6. POST SERVICE ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Pursued a college degree in psychology while maintaining a 3.8 grade point average, started a brush clearing business while a full-time student and parent, and joined the Army National Guard (ARNG) Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC).

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 600-8-24 (Officer Transfers and Discharges) sets forth the basic authority for the separation of commissioned and warrant officers.

(1) Paragraph 1-23, provides the authorized types of characterization of service or description of separation.

(2) Paragraph 1-23a, states an officer will normally receive an honorable characterization of service when the quality of the officer's service has met the standards of acceptable conduct and performance of duty, or the final revocation of a security clearance under DODI 5200.02 and AR 380-67 for reasons that do not involve acts of misconduct for an officer.

(3) Paragraph 1-23b, states an officer will normally receive a general (under honorable conditions) characterization of service when the officer's military record is satisfactory but not sufficiently meritorious to warrant an honorable discharge. A separation under general (under honorable conditions) normally appropriate when an officer: Submits an unqualified resignation; Separated based on misconduct; discharged for physical disability resulting from intentional misconduct or neglect; and, for final revocation of a security clearance.

(4) Paragraph 2-37(a)1 states Reserve commissioned officers serving on active duty (AD) as commissioned officers who fail a second time to be set for promotion to permanent Reserve grade of captain, major, or lieutenant colonel will be released from AD.

(5) Chapter 4 outlines the policy and procedure for the elimination of officers from the active Army for substandard performance of duty.

(6) Paragraph 4-2b, prescribes for the elimination of an officer for misconduct, moral or professional dereliction, or in the interests of national security.

(7) Paragraph 4-20a (previously 4-24a), states an officer identified for elimination may, at any time during or prior to the final action in the elimination case elect one of the following options: (1) Submit a resignation in lieu of elimination; (2) request a discharge in lieu of elimination; and (3) Apply for retirement in lieu of elimination if otherwise eligible.

g. 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 "LGB" as the appropriate code to assign for members who are discharged under the provisions of Army Regulation 600-8-24, None-Selection, Permanent Promotion.

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 a change of the narrative reason for separation and the separation code.

b. The applicant's Army Military Human Resources Record (AMHRR), the issues, and documents submitted with the application were carefully reviewed.

c. The applicant contends having struggled with PTSD, TBI, and other mental health conditions, due to multiple traumatic experiences during OEF and OIF. According to the applicant's ORB, the applicant completed five short deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan between 2005 and 2007. The applicant explains experiencing significant mental health challenges during and after military service. The applicant states it took many years before seeking professional treatment. The applicant further contends the chain of command did not provide a clear or adequate explanation for the involuntary separation.

d. The applicant's DD Form 214 confirms the separation authority approved the discharge under the provisions of AR 600-8-24, Paragraph 2-37, Non-Selection, Permanent Promotion. Army Regulations state a Soldier separated under this provision will receive a narrative reason of "Non-Selection, Permanent Promotion", and a Separation Code of LGB.

e. The applicant provided a VA Rating, VA Benefits Information, and a My HealtheVet Personal Information Report showing the applicant received a 70 percent rating for PTSD, effective 2 February 2023, and a combined rating of 90 percent.

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: Generalized Anxiety Disorder, PTSD, TBI, Depressive Disorder.

(2) Did the condition exist, or experience occur during military service? **Yes.** The Board's Medical Advisor found that the applicant was diagnosed in service with Generalized Anxiety Disorder and is service connected by the VA for TBI, PTSD, and Depressive 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 there is evidence of mitigating BH conditions. The applicant was diagnosed in service with Generalized Anxiety Disorder and is 100% service connected by the VA for TBI, PTSD, and Depressive Disorder. There is direct evidence in the active-duty medical record that the applicant's Generalized Anxiety Disorder interfered with the applicant's interpersonal effectiveness and time management. The applicant's PTSD has a nexus with avoidance and difficulty with authority, and a TBI can be associated with reduced productivity due to slower thinking, difficulty multitasking, increased errors, and fatigue. As such, it is likely that the applicant's Generalized Anxiety Disorder, PTSD, TBI, and Depressive Disorder directly contributed to the applicant not being selected for a promotion which led to the separation.

(4) Does the condition or experience outweigh the discharge? **Yes.** The Board concurred with the opinion of the Board's Medical Advisor, a voting member. As a result, the ADRB applied liberal consideration and found that the applicant's Generalized Anxiety Disorder, PTSD, TBI, and Depressive Disorder outweighed not being selected for a promotion for the aforementioned reason(s).

b. Prior Decisions Cited: N/A

c. Response to Contention(s): The applicant requests relief, asserting the applicant has struggled with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI), and other mental health conditions since 2003. The Board determined that this contention was valid and voted to upgrade the characterization of service due to Generalized Anxiety Disorder, PTSD, TBI, and Depressive Disorder outweighed not being selected for a promotion and there being no misconduct on file.

d. The Board determined the narrative reason for the applicant's separation is inequitable based on the applicant's Generalized Anxiety Disorder, PTSD, TBI, and Depressive Disorder outweighed not being selected for a promotion and there being no misconduct on file.

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 not to change the characterization of service due to it already being Honorable.

(3) The Board voted to change the reason for discharge to Secretarial Authority because the applicant's Generalized Anxiety Disorder, PTSD, TBI, and Depressive Disorder outweighed not being selected for a promotion and there being no misconduct on file, thus the reason for discharge is no longer appropriate. The SPD code associated with the new reason for discharge is KFF.

ARMY DISCHARGE REVIEW BOARD CASE REPORT AND DIRECTIVE

AR20240001446

10. BOARD ACTION DIRECTED:

- a. Issue a New DD-214: Yes
- b. Change Characterization to: No Change
- c. Change Reason / SPD Code to: Secretarial Authority / KFF
- d. Change Authority to: AR 15-180

Authenticating Official:

3/6/2026

Legend:

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

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

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

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