

1. Applicant's Name: [REDACTED]**a. Application Date:** 2 January 2024**b. Date Received:** 15 April 2024**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 Under Other Than Honorable Conditions. The applicant requests an upgrade of their character of service to Honorable or General (Under Honorable Conditions).

(2) The applicant seeks relief contending they have been trying to get compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for three years. They feel as though their character of service should be upgraded because of their previous history of being a good Soldier. When they arrived at their new unit they were immediately discriminated against, and they felt as though their leadership was targeting them because of their silent nature and the toxicity of the unit. Their superior noncommissioned officer (NCO), at the end of their duty station, admitted to being racist and playing a "Game" for their entertainment. The mental and verbal abuse got worse within a year of being there and that is when they were diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Major Depression, Generalized Anxiety Disorder, Bipolar Disorder, Schizophrenia, Psychosis, Panic Disorder, and they started having suicidal thoughts. They were very young at that time and didn't understand what they could do. They turned to substance abuse to cope with their issues and had a period when they just wanted to leave and they went Absence Without Leave (AWOL). Both of these were unacceptable, but their mental health was at risk and they felt as though this was the safest route.

(3) They feel they should receive a character of service upgrade; they were not a bad Soldier before they came to their new unit. They never had issues before, but their whole life changed in this unit. Even today they have mental disorders. At that time their spouse was being abusive, they lost their grandmother and a best friend. Their unit and superiors still didn't care and made their life much worse. They are providing supporting documents to support their claim of how bad their unit was affecting them mentally and physically. They ask to please take this into account along with them being young, unguided and scared. They realize these aren't excuses and they could have handled it better, but they feel they should get a second chance.

b. Board Type and Decision: In a records review conducted on 19 February 2026, and by a 3-0 vote, the Board determined the discharge is inequitable based on the applicant's MDD mitigated the applicant's AWOL and marijuana abuse. 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. 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: In Lieu of Trial by Court-Martial / Army Regulation 635-200, Chapter 10 / KFS / RE-4 / Under Other Than Honorable Conditions

b. Date of Discharge: 9 November 2021

c. Separation Facts:

(1) Date Charges Preferred / DD Form 458 (Charge Sheet): On 29 September 2021 / Charge I, violation of Article 86 (AWOL) with one Specification in that they did, on or about 10 June 2021, without authority, absent themselves from their organization, located on Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA and did remain so absent until on or about 9 July 2021. Charge II, violation of Article 112a (Wrongful use of controlled substances) with three Specifications in that they did between on or about 26 April 2021 and 9 July 2021, three occurrences of wrongfully use marijuana.

(2) Legal Consultation Date: 4 October 2021

(3) Basis for Separation: Pursuant to the Applicant's voluntary request for discharge under the provisions of Army Regulation 635-200, Chapter 10, in lieu of trial by court-martial.

(4) CDR / Intermediate CDR Recommended Characterization: NIF

(5) Separation Approval Decision Date / Characterization: 21 October 2021 / Under Other Than Honorable Conditions

4. SERVICE DETAILS:

a. Date / Period of Reenlistment Under Review: 8 May 2018 / 5 years

b. Age at Reenlistment / Education / GT Score: 18 / HS Graduate / 101

c. Highest Grade Achieved / MOS / Total Service: E-4 / 25B1O, Information Technology Specialist / 3 years, 5 months, 3 days.

d. Prior Service / Characterizations: None

e. Overseas Service / Combat Service: Korea / None

f. Awards and Decorations: AGCM, KDSM, ASR, OSR

g. Performance Ratings: NA

h. Disciplinary Action(s) / Evidentiary Record:

(1) Four DA Forms 4187 (Personnel Action) dated 11 June 2021, 15 June 2021, 16 June 2021 and 12 July 2021, reflects the applicant's duty status changed from Absent Unknown to AWOL effective 10 June 2021; from AWOL to Dropped From Rolls effective 16 June 2021; and from Dropped From Rolls to Present for Duty effective 9 July 2021

(2) A DD Form 616 (Report of Return of Absentee) dated 12 July 2021 reflects the applicant surrendered to military authorities and was returned to military control on 9 July 2021.

(3) Three memorandum, Headquarters, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, subject: Lab Confirmed Positive Urinalysis, dated 17 June 2021, 23 June 2021, and 17 August 2021, reflects the applicant's three positive urinalysis for marijuana.

(4) A DD Form 458 (Charge Sheet) dated 29 September 2021 reflects the charge preferred against the applicant as shown above in paragraph 3c(1).

(5) In the applicant's memorandum, subject: Request for Discharge in Lieu of Trial by Courts-Martial, dated 4 October 2021, reflects the applicant voluntarily requested Discharge In Lieu of Trial by Courts-Martial under Army Regulation 635-200, chapter 10. They understand that they may request discharge in lieu of trial by court-martial because of the charge preferred against them under the UCMJ, which authorizes the imposition of a bad conduct or dishonorable discharge. They are making this request of their own free will and have not been subjected to any coercion whatsoever by any person. By submitting this request for discharge, they acknowledge they understand the elements of the offense charged and am guilty.

(a) Prior to completing this form, they have been afforded the opportunity to consult with their appointed counsel. They have been advised of the nature of their rights under the UCMJ, the elements of the offenses with which they are charged, the facts which must be established by competent evidence beyond a reasonable doubt to sustain a finding of guilty; the possible defenses which appear to be available at the time, and the maximum permissible punishment if found guilty.

(b) They understand that, if their request for discharge is accepted, they may be discharged under conditions which are Under Other Than Honorable Conditions. They have been advised and understand the possible effects of an Under Other Than Honorable Conditions Discharge and that, as a result of the issuance of such a discharge they will be deprived of many or all Army benefits, that they may be ineligible for many or all benefits administered by the VA, and that they may be deprived of their rights and benefits as a veteran under both Federal and State law. They further understand they may expect to encounter substantial prejudice in civilian life because of an Under Other Than Honorable Conditions discharge.

(c) They have been advised that they may submit statements and elected to submit statements their own behalf. [Note: statements in their behalf are not in evidence for review.]

(6) A memorandum, Headquarters, 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, subject: [Applicant] – 4 October 2021 Chapter 10 Request – Chain of Command Recommendations, dated 5 October 2021, reflects the Brigade Judge Advocate states the applicant understands they may be discharged Under Other Than Honorable Conditions. The applicant's chain of command recommends the applicant receive Under Other Than Honorable Conditions discharge and –

(a) The applicant's company commander approves the applicant's request and recommends it be accepted because the applicant's actions are not in keeping with what is expected of Soldiers in the U.S. Army and they continued to be a disruptive influence in their formation.

(b) The applicant's battalion commander approves the applicant's request and recommends it be accepted because the applicant's action demonstrate they are unwilling to abide by the Army Values.

(c) The applicant's brigade commander supports accepting the chapter 10 request submitted by the applicant as their misconduct has demonstrated they are not fit for continued service in the U.S. Army and that a chapter 10 is an appropriate method for separating them from the service.

(7) A memorandum, Headquarters, 7th Infantry Division, subject: Request for Discharge in Lieu of Trial by Court-Martial for [Applicant], dated 21 October 2021, the separation authority approved the applicant's request for discharge in lieu of trial by court-martial. The commanding general directed the applicant be discharged from the U.S. Army under the provisions of Army Regulation 635-200, chapter 10, with a character of service of Under Other Than Honorable Conditions. The commanding general states the applicant has not been diagnosed with PTSD or Traumatic Brain Injury or reasonably alleges that they have either condition based on service while deployed. The court-martial charges pending against the applicant will be withdrawn and dismissed effective upon the date of separation. The applicant will be reduced to the lowest enlisted grade.

(8) A DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) reflects the applicant was discharged on 9 November 2021, with 3 years, 2 months, and 13 days of net active service this period. The DD Form 214 shows in –

- item 4a (Grade, Rate or Rank) – Private
- item 4b (Pay Grade) – E-1
- item 12i (Effective Date of Pay Grade) – 28 July 2021
- item 18 (Remarks) – in part, MEMBER HAS NOT COMPLETED FIRST FULL TERM OF SERVICE
- item 24 (Character of Service) – Under Other Than Honorable Conditions
- item 26 (Separation Code) – KFS
- item 27 (Reentry Code) – 4
- item 28 (Narrative Reason for Separation) – In Lieu of Trial by Court-Martial
- item 29 (Dates of Time Lost During This Period) – 20210610 – 20210708

i. **Lost Time / Mode of Return:** 29 Days (10 June 2021 – 8 July 2021) / Surrendered to Military Authorities.

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:** DD Form 2807-1 (Report of Medical History) reflecting the applicant report of Anxiety and Depression and Office and Clinic Notes reflect behavioral health outpatient notes.

(2) **AMHRR Listed:** None

5. APPLICANT-PROVIDED EVIDENCE:

- DD Form 293 (Application for the Review of Discharge from the Armed Forces of the United States)
- Medical Documents – Physical Packet, DD Form 2807-1, and Office and Clinic Notes

6. **POST SERVICE ACCOMPLISHMENTS:** None submitted with the application.

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 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 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.

(3) 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.

(4) 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.

(5) 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) Chapter 10, Discharge in Lieu of Trial by Court Martial is applicable to members who had committed an offense or offenses for which the authorized punishment included a bad conduct, or dishonorable discharge could submit a request for discharge for the good of the service. The request could be submitted at any time after the charges had been preferred. Although an honorable or general discharge was authorized, an under other than honorable conditions discharge was normally considered appropriate, unless the record was so meritorious it would warrant an honorable.

(a) After receiving legal counseling, the soldier may elect to submit a request for discharge in lieu of trial by court-martial. The soldier will sign a written request, certifying that they have been counseled, understands their rights, and may receive a discharge under other than honorable conditions.

(b) The following documents will accompany the request for discharge:

- a copy of a Charge Sheet (DD Form 458)
- Report of Medical Examination and Mental Status Evaluation, if conducted
- a complete copy of all reports of investigation
- any statement, documents, or other matter considered by the commanding officer in making his/her recommendation, including any information presented for consideration by the soldier or consulting counsel
- a statement of any reasonable ground for belief that the soldier is, or was at the time of misconduct, mentally defective, deranged, or abnormal. When appropriate, evaluation by a psychiatrist will be included

(5) Paragraph 10-8 (Types of Discharge, Characterization of Service) states a discharge under other than honorable conditions normally is appropriate for a Soldier who is discharged in lieu of trial by court-martial. However, the separation authority may direct a general discharge if such is merited by the Soldier's overall record during the current enlistment. 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 improper.

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 "KFS" as the appropriate code to assign enlisted Soldiers who are discharged under the provisions of Army Regulation 635-200, Chapter 10, In Lieu of Trial by Court-Martial.

h. 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 Department of Defense 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 waivable and nonwaivable 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 waivable. Eligibility: Ineligible unless a waiver is granted.

(3) RE-4 Applies to: Person separated from last period of service with a nonwaivable 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.

i. Manual for Courts-Martial (2019 Edition), United States, states 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 orders 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 86 (AWOL) and Article 112a (Wrongful use 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. The evidence in the applicant's AMHRR confirms the applicant was charged with the commission of offenses punishable under the UCMJ with a punitive charge. The applicant, in consultation with legal counsel, voluntarily requested, in writing, a discharge under the

provisions of Army Regulation 635-200, chapter 10, in lieu of trial by court-martial. In this request, the applicant admitted to the offense, or a lesser included offense, and indicated an understanding a Bad Conduct or Dishonorable Discharge could be received. Their DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) provides they were discharged under the provisions of Army Regulation 635-200, chapter 10, by reason of In Lieu of Trial by Court-Martial, with a characterization of service of Under Other Than Honorable Conditions. They completed 3 years, 5 months, and 3 days of net active service this period and did not complete their first full term of service of their 5-year enlistment agreement.

c. Army Regulation 635-200 states a Chapter 10 is a voluntary discharge request in-lieu of trial by court-martial. A discharge under other than honorable conditions normally is appropriate for a Soldier who is discharged in lieu of trial by court-martial. However, the separation authority may direct a general discharge if such is merited by the Soldier's overall record during the current enlistment. 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 improper.

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: Adjustment Disorder, Major Depressive Disorder. Additionally, the applicant asserts PTSD, Generalized Anxiety Disorder, Bipolar Disorder, Schizophrenia, Psychosis, and Panic Disorder, which may be sufficient evidence to establish the existence of a condition that could mitigate or excuse the discharge.

(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 an Adjustment Disorder and Major Depressive Disorder. Additionally, the applicant asserts PTSD, Generalized Anxiety Disorder, Bipolar Disorder, Schizophrenia, Psychosis, and Panic 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 was diagnosed in service with an Adjustment Disorder and Major Depressive Disorder. The applicant's Major Depressive Disorder was determined to fail medical retention standards in July 2021 and an MEB was initiated. Given the nexus between Major Depressive Disorder, avoidance, and using substances for self-medication, the AWOL and wrongful uses of marijuana that led to the separation are mitigated. There is no medical evidence to support the applicant's self-asserted PTSD, Generalized Anxiety Disorder, Bipolar Disorder, Schizophrenia, Psychosis, or Panic Disorder, but the lack of medical evidence is inconsequential given the full mitigation provided by the applicant's Major Depressive Disorder.

(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 MDD mitigated the applicant's AWOL and marijuana abuse for the aforementioned reason(s).

b. Prior Decisions Cited: **N/A**

c. Response to Contention(s):

(1) The applicant contends they have been trying to get compensation from the VA for three years.

The Board considered this contention but determined that the contention is not a matter upon which the Army Discharge Review Board grants a change in discharge. The issue raises no matter of fact, law, procedure, or discretion related to the discharge process, nor is it associated with the discharge when it was issued.

(2) The applicant contends they feel as though their character of service should be upgraded because of their previous history of being a good Soldier.

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 MDD mitigating the applicant's AWOL and drug abuse.

(3) The applicant contends when they arrived at their new unit they were immediately discriminated against, and they felt as though their leadership was targeting them because of their silent nature and the toxicity of the unit. Their superior NCO, at the end of their duty station, admitted to being racist and playing a "Game" for their entertainment.

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 MDD mitigating the applicant's AWOL and drug abuse.

(4) The applicant contends the mental and verbal abuse got worse within a year of being there and that is when they were diagnosed with PTSD, Major Depression, Generalized Anxiety Disorder, Bipolar Disorder, Schizophrenia, Psychosis, Panic Disorder, and they started having suicidal thoughts.

The Board determined that this contention was valid and voted to upgrade the characterization of service due to PTSD mitigating the applicant's AWOL and drug charges. There was no evidence other than the applicant's assertion to support the other conditions, but the Board determined it to be inconsequential due to relief already being awarded.

(5) The applicant contends they were very young at that time and didn't understand what they could do. They turned to substance abuse to cope with their issues and had a period when they just wanted to leave, and they went AWOL. Both of these were unacceptable, but their mental health was at risk and they felt as though this was the safest route.

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 MDD mitigating the applicant's AWOL and drug abuse.

(6) The applicant contends they feel they should receive a character of service upgrade; they were not a bad Soldier before they came to their new unit. They never had issues before, but their whole life changed in this unit.

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 MDD mitigating the applicant's AWOL and drug abuse.

(7) The applicant contends even today they have mental disorders. At that time their spouse was being abusive, they lost their grandmother and a best friend. Their unit and superiors still didn't care and made their life much worse.

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 MDD mitigating the applicant's AWOL and drug abuse.

(8) The applicant contends they are providing supporting documents to support their claim of how bad their unit was affecting them mentally and physically. They ask to please take this into account along with them being young, unguided and scared. They realize these aren't excuses and they could have handled it better, but they feel they should get a second chance. 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 MDD mitigating the applicant's AWOL and drug abuse.

d. The Board determined the discharge is inequitable based on the applicant's MDD mitigated the applicant's AWOL and marijuana abuse. 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.

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 MDD mitigated the applicant's AWOL and 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 mitigating condition is service-limiting.

ARMY DISCHARGE REVIEW BOARD CASE REPORT AND DIRECTIVE

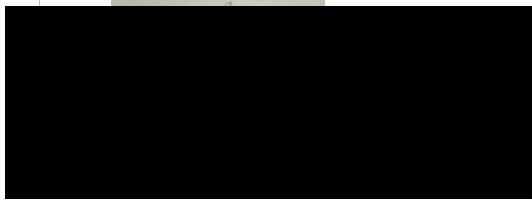
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10. BOARD ACTION DIRECTED:

- a. Issue a New DD-214: Yes
- b. Change Characterization to: Honorable
- c. Change Reason / SPD Code to: Misconduct (Minor Infractions)/JKN
- d. Change RE Code to: No Change
- e. Change Authority to: AR 635-200, paragraph 14-12a

Authenticating Official:

2/25/2026



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