



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF NAVAL RECORDS
701 S. COURTHOUSE ROAD, SUITE 1001
ARLINGTON, VA 22204-2490

█
Docket No: 8009-21

Ref: Signature Date

From: Chairman, Board for Correction of Naval Records
To: Secretary of the Navy

Subj: REVIEW OF NAVAL RECORD OF FORMER █, USN,
XXX-XX-█

Ref: (a) 10 U.S.C. §1552
(b) 10 U.S.C. 654 (Repeal)
(c) UNSECDEF Memo of 20 Sep 11 (Correction of Military Records Following Repeal of 10 U.S.C. 654)

Encl: (1) DD Form 149 with attachments
(2) Case Summary

1. Pursuant to the provisions of reference (a), Subject, hereinafter referred to as Petitioner, filed enclosure (1) with the Board for Correction of Naval Records (Board), requesting, that his characterization of service be upgraded to "honorable." Implicit in this request that changes also be made to his narrative reason for separation, reenlistment code, separation program designator (SPD) and separation authority indicated on his Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214). Additionally, Petitioner request that his "rank" be corrected to reflect "ISSN (E-3)."

2. The Board, consisting of █, █ and █ reviewed Petitioner's allegations of error and injustice on 26 January 2022 and, pursuant to its regulations, determined that the corrective action indicated below should be taken. Documentary material considered by the Board consisted of Petitioner's application together with all material submitted in support thereof, relevant portions of Petitioner's naval record, and applicable statutes, regulations, and policies, to include references (b) and (c).

3. The Board, having reviewed all the facts of record pertaining to Petitioner's allegations of error and injustice finds as follows:

a. Before applying to this Board, Petitioner exhausted all administrative remedies available under existing law and regulations within the Department of the Navy.

b. Although enclosure (1) was not filed in a timely manner, it is in the interest of justice to waive the statute of limitations and review the application on its merits.

Subj: REVIEW OF NAVAL RECORD OF FORMER [REDACTED], USN,
XXX-XX-[REDACTED]

c. Petitioner enlisted in the Navy and began a period of active duty on 8 June 1988. The Board noted there was a change listed on Petitioner's Enlisted Performance Record that showed a change to Petitioner's rate from Seaman Apprentice (SA) to Intelligence Specialist Seaman Apprentice (ISSA).

d. On 20 January 1989, Petitioner provided a voluntary statement admitting that he is a homosexual.

e. Subsequently, Petitioner was notified that he was being recommended for administrative separation from the Navy by reason of misconduct due to homosexuality. Petitioner was advised of, and waived his procedural rights, to consult with military counsel and to present his case to an administrative discharge board (ADB).

f. Petitioner's commanding officer (CO) then forwarded his administrative separation package to the separation authority (SA) recommending Petitioner's administrative discharge from the Navy with type warranted by service record characterization of service. The SA approved the recommendation for administrative discharge, and directed that Petitioner be administratively discharged from the Navy with type warranted by his service record characterization of service. On 21 March 1989, Petitioner was administratively discharged with a general (under honorable conditions) characterization of service by reason of homosexuality.

g. Petitioner contends that he was discharged based solely on his sexual orientation. He had a clean and outstanding military record at the time of his discharge. He has been refused Veteran's Benefits, because of his sexual orientation. Additionally, he contends that he was a "full Seaman" at the time of his discharge, but his DD Form 214 reflects his rank as a Seaman Apprentice.

h. Reference (c) sets forth the Department of the Defense's current policies, standards, and procedures for correction of military records following the "don't ask, don't tell" (DADT) repeal of 10 U.S.C. 654. It provides service Discharge Review Boards with guidance to grant requests to change the characterization of service to "honorable," narrative reason for discharge to "secretarial authority," SPD code to "JFF," and reenlistment code to "RE-1J," when the original discharge was based solely on DADT or a similar policy in place prior to enactment of it and there are no aggravating factors in the record, such as misconduct.

CONCLUSION:

Upon review and consideration of all the evidence of record, and the law and policy established in references (b) and (c), the Board concludes that Petitioner's request warrants partial relief.

The Board noted Petitioner's record supports that he was solely discharged on the basis of homosexuality. In this regard, the Board concluded that the record should be changed to reflect a less stigmatizing reason for separation by upgrading Petitioner's discharge characterization of service, changing the narrative reason for separation, reenlistment code, SPD code, and separation authority.

Subj: REVIEW OF NAVAL RECORD OF FORMER [REDACTED], USN,
XXX-XX-[REDACTED]

In regards to Petitioner's request for correction to his "rank," the Board noted there is no evidence in the record that the Petitioner achieved the rank of "ISSN." The Board concluded that although the Petitioner contends that his rank should be "ISSN," Petitioner has not provide any evidence to substantiate his request, nor is there evidence in the record to support his request.

RECOMMENDATION:

In view of the above, the Board directs the following corrective action:

That Petitioner be issued a new DD Form 214 and discharge certificate indicating that on 21 March 1989, Petitioner's characterization of service was "Honorable," narrative reason for separation was "Secretarial Authority," the SPD code assigned was "JFF," the reenlistment code was "RE-1J," and the separation authority was "MILPERSMAN 1910-164."

That no further action be granted.

That a copy of this report of proceedings be filed in Petitioner's naval record.

4. It is certified that a quorum was present at the Board's review and deliberations, and that the foregoing is a true and complete record of the Board's proceedings in the above entitled matter.

5. Pursuant to the delegation of authority set out in Section 6(e) of the revised Procedures of the Board for Correction of Naval Records (32 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 723.6(e)), and having assured compliance with its provisions, it is hereby announced that the foregoing corrective action, taken under the authority of reference (a), has been approved by the Board on behalf of the Secretary of the Navy.

2/8/2022

[REDACTED]

Executive Director
Signed by: [REDACTED]