



Subj: REVIEW OF NAVAL RECORD OF [REDACTED]

administrative separation due to his diagnoses of Personality Disorder with Cluster B Features and Alcohol Abuse.

c. On 21 October 1996, Petitioner was notified of the initiation of administrative separation processing and his rights in connection therewith. On 24 October 1996, Petitioner's Commanding Officer recommended that he be discharged due to his Personality Disorder, referencing the medical finding that Petitioner has a personality disorder of such severity as to render him incapable of continued service, but does not have a mental illness and was responsible for his own misconduct. On 19 November 1996, the discharge authority directed Petitioner be discharged and, on 27 November 1996, he was honorably discharged by reason of convenience of the government due to a personality disorder with a separation code of HFX1 (personality disorder).

d. In his petition to this Board, Petitioner requests that his discharge be changed to a disability discharge and that the personality disorder reference be removed from his Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214). In support of his contention, Petitioner asserts that he suffered an injury from a fall while stationed in [REDACTED], and he is currently "service connected" for a shoulder injury. He further asserts that as a result of his fall, he was in excruciating pain, and in response he was improperly diagnosed with a personality disorder.

e. In order to assist it in evaluating Petitioner's contentions, the Board obtained the enclosure (2) AO, which was considered unfavorable to Petitioner. According to this AO:

Petitioner was appropriately referred for psychological evaluation during his enlistment, properly evaluated during one encounter, and diagnosed with a personality disorder. His diagnosis was based on observed behaviors and performance during his period of service, the information he chose to disclose, and the psychological evaluation performed by the mental health clinician. A personality disorder indicates characterological traits rendering military service unsuitable and, by definition, is neither incurred in nor exacerbated by military service. There is no evidence that his in-service diagnosis was in error, or that he was diagnosed with another mental health condition incurred in or exacerbated by military service. He has provided no medical evidence in support of his claims. Additional records (e.g., post-service mental health records describing the Petitioner's diagnosis, symptoms, and their specific link to his misconduct) would aid in rendering an alternate opinion.

The AO concluded, "it is my considered clinical opinion there is insufficient evidence of a mental health condition that may be attributed to military service. There is insufficient evidence the circumstances surrounding his separation could be attributed to a mental health condition other than his diagnosed personality disorder."

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## CONCLUSION

Upon review and consideration of all the evidence of record, and in view of reference (b), the Board finds the existence of an injustice warranting partial relief. Specifically, the Board determined that the interests of justice supports changing Petitioner's narrative reason for separation to Secretarial Authority, with associated changes to his separation code and authority, in order to eliminate any stigma associated with a personality disorder narrative reason being listed on his DD Form 214. In reaching its decision on this point, the Board determined that the Petitioner is deserving of clemency in the form of removing a narrative reason for separation that may be viewed in a negative light noted on his DD Form 214.

Despite the Board's recommendation to grant the below relief as a matter of injustice, the Board concluded the preponderance of the evidence does not support any other relief requested by the Petitioner, including providing him a disability discharge. Specifically, the Board found no evidence of unfitness based on any qualifying condition during the Petitioner's period of active service. The Board observed Petitioner's actual reason for separation was a result of his personality disorder diagnosis, for which there was no evidence to the contrary. In reaching this conclusion, the Board substantially concurred with the finding of enclosure (2). Similarly, the Board found no basis to change Petitioner's reentry code and deemed it appropriate based on his separation due to his personality disorder.

## RECOMMENDATION

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

Petitioner be issued a new Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214) reflecting that at the time of his discharge his narrative reason for separation was "Secretarial Authority," separation authority was "MARCORSEPMAN 6214," and his separation code was "JFF1."

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 Regulation, 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.

9/15/2022

[REDACTED]  
Executive Director  
[REDACTED]