



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

██████████
Docket No. 7354-23
Ref: Signature Date

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

Subj: REVIEW NAVAL RECORD OF FORMER MEMBER ██████████
XXX XX ██████████ USMC

Ref: (a) 10 U.S.C. § 1552
(b) SECDEF Memo, 3 Sep 14 (Hagel Memo)
(c) PDUSD Memo, 24 Feb 16 (Carson Memo)
(d) USD Memo, 25 Aug 17 (Kurta Memo)
(e) USECDEF Memo, 25 Jul 18 (Wilkie Memo)

Encl: (1) DD Form 149 with attachments
(2) Case summary
(3) Subject's naval record (excerpts)
(4) Advisory Opinion dated 22 February 2024

1. Pursuant to the provisions of reference (a), Subject, hereinafter referred to as Petitioner, a former enlisted member of the Marine Corps filed enclosure (1) with this Board requesting that his General (Under Honorable Conditions) (GEN) characterization of service, Narrative Reason for Separation "Personality Disorder," and Separation Code "JFX1" be changed. Enclosures (2) through (4) apply.

2. The Board, consisting of ██████████, ██████████, and ██████████, reviewed Petitioner's allegations of error and injustice on 17 April 2024 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) through (e). Additionally, the Board also considered enclosure (4), the advisory opinion (AO) from a qualified mental health professional. Although Petitioner was provided an opportunity to comment on the AO, he chose not to do so.

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, the statute of limitation was waived in accordance with the Kurta Memo.

Subj: REVIEW NAVAL RECORD OF FORMER MEMBER [REDACTED]
XXX XX [REDACTED] USMC

c. Petitioner enlisted in the Marine Corps on 26 March 2001. On 13 December 2001, Petitioner was formerly counseled on his failure to complete a formal school resulting in a reclassification of his primary Military Occupational Specialty. On 19 November 2003, Petitioner was diagnosed with Mild, Generalized Anxiety Disorder and Personality Disorder NOS. On 2 February 2004, Petitioner's Personality Disorder diagnosis was confirmed, and he was recommended for administrative separation. Subsequently, he was notified of pending administrative separation action by reason of a personality disorder. After waiving his rights, his commanding officer (CO) forwarded his package to the separation authority (SA) recommending his discharge, by reason of a personality disorder, with a GEN characterization of service. The SA approved the recommendation, and, on 13 September 2004, he was so discharged.

d. In his application, Petitioner asserts that his command failed to recognize his PTSD.

e. Based on Petitioner's assertion of a PTSD, enclosure (4) was requested and reviewed. It stated in pertinent part:

Petitioner was appropriately referred and treated by active duty Mental Health professionals who diagnosed him with R/O PTSD, mild, Generalized Anxiety Disorder [pre-existing to service], and Personality Disorder. A Personality Disorder is a long-standing disorder of character and behavior that is of such severity as to interfere with successful performance in the military. The Petitioner did not submit any medical evidence in support of his claim. His personal statement is not sufficiently detailed to establish clinical symptoms or provide a nexus with his misconduct. 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."

CONCLUSION:

Upon review and consideration of all the evidence of record, the Board concludes that Petitioner's request warrants relief. Specifically, in keeping with the letter and spirit of the Hagel, Kurta, and Wilkie Memos, the Board determined that it would be an injustice to label one's discharge as being for a diagnosed character and behavior and/or adjustment disorder. Describing Petitioner's service in this manner attaches a considerable negative and unnecessary stigma, and fundamental fairness and medical privacy concerns dictate a change. Accordingly, the Board concluded that certain remedial administrative changes are warranted to his DD Form 214.

The Board determined Petitioner's request for an Honorable characterization of service is supported by the evidence. The Board noted that Petitioner's military behavior trait was above averaged, he has no misconduct in his record, and he met the eligibility criteria for an Honorable character of service. As a result, the Board concluded, purely as a matter of injustice, it was appropriate to change Petitioner's characterization of service to "Honorable," along with a

Subj: REVIEW NAVAL RECORD OF FORMER MEMBER [REDACTED]
XXX XX [REDACTED] USMC

narrative reason for separation of "Secretarial Authority" and associated changes to his SPD code, separation authority, and reenlistment code.

In view of the foregoing, the Board finds the existence of an injustice warranting the following corrective action.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Petitioner be issued a new Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214) that shows that, on 13 September 2004, his characterization of service was "Honorable," his narrative reason for separation was "Secretarial Plenary Authority," his separation code was "JFF1," his separation authority was "MARCORSEPMAN 6214," and his reenlistment code was "RE-1J."

That no further changes be made to the record.

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 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.

5/1/2024

