



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

██████████  
Docket No. 9183-23

Ref: Signature Date

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

Subj: REVIEW OF NAVAL RECORD OF ██████████  
██████████

Ref: (a) Title 10 U.S.C. §1552  
(b) SECDEF Memo of 13 Sep 14 (Hagel Memo)  
(c) PDUSD Memo of 24 Feb 16 (Carson Memo)  
(d) USECDEF Memo of 25 Aug 2017 (Kurta Memo)  
(e) USECDEF Memo of 25 Jul 18 (Wilkie Memo)

Encl: (1) DD Form 149 w/attachments  
(2) Naval record (excerpts)  
(3) Advisory opinion, 18 Sep 23

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 a change to his narrative reason for separation.

2. The Board, consisting of ██████████, reviewed Petitioner's allegations of error and injustice on 31 May 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, applicable statutes, regulations, and policies, to include references (b) through (e). In addition, the Board considered enclosure (3), an advisory opinion (AO) from a qualified mental health professional. Although Petitioner was provided an opportunity to respond to 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 regulation 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.

c. Petitioner enlisted in the Navy and began a period of active duty on 10 May 1978. Petitioner underwent inpatient medical treatment from the period beginning on 7 May 1979 to 6 June 1979. He was discharged with a diagnosis of chronic alcoholism.

d. On 20 January 1981, a Medical Screening Board diagnosed Petitioner with Personality disorder, mixed type, manifested by paranoid and schizoid features alcoholism, characterized by episodic dependence/abuse patterns. A lateral conversion request was initiated due to his medical conditions.

e. However, on 17 March 1981, Petitioner was notified that he was being recommended for administrative discharge from the Navy by reason of unsuitability due to personality disorder. Petitioner waived his procedural rights. The commanding officer (CO) forwarded the administrative separation package to the separation authority (SA) concurring recommending Petitioner's separation from naval service due to his diagnosis of personality disorder. On 6 May 1981, Petitioner was discharged with an Honorable character of service due to unsuitability-personality disorder.

f. Petitioner contends the following injustices warranting relief:

- (1) He struggled with his mental health;
- (2) He was too young to understand his actions and he was forced to be discharged; and
- (3) He was never diagnosed with personality disorder, and its annotation on his DD Form 214 is embarrassing.

g. As part of the Board's review, a qualified mental health professional reviewed Petitioner's request and provided the Board with enclosure (3). The AO stated in pertinent part:

Petitioner was appropriately referred for psychological evaluation during his enlistment and properly evaluated on multiple occasions, including during an inpatient hospitalization. His personality disorder diagnosis was based on observed behaviors and performance during his period of service, the information he chose to disclose, and the psychological evaluations performed by the mental health clinician. A personality disorder diagnosis is pre-existing to military service by definition, and indicates lifelong characterological traits unsuitable for military service. Unfortunately, he has provided no medical evidence to support his claims. Although the Petitioner was able to perform without significant reported difficulty for several years across two branches of service, it is possible that the stresses of increased responsibility revealed characterological traits incompatible with military service. Additional records (e.g., post-service mental health records describing the Petitioner's diagnosis, symptoms, and their specific link to his misconduct) may aid in rendering an alternate opinion.

The AO concluded, "it is my clinical opinion there is in-service evidence of diagnoses of alcohol use and personality disorder. There is insufficient evidence of error in these diagnoses."

## CONCLUSION

Upon review and consideration of all the evidence of record, the Board concludes that Petitioner's request warrants relief. 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 Petitioner's reason for separation and his separation code should not be labeled as being for a mental health-related condition and that certain remedial administrative changes are warranted to the DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty. Notwithstanding the recommended corrective action below, the Board determined Petitioner's assigned reentry code remains appropriate based on his unsuitability for further military service.

## RECOMMENDATION

That Petitioner be issued a new DD Form 214 reflecting that, for the period ending 6 May 1981, Petitioner's narrative reason for separation was "Secretarial Authority," the SPD code assigned was "JFF," and the separation authority was "MILPERSMAN 1910-164."

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.

6/24/2024

