

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

> Docket No. 3082-24 Ref: Signature Date

From: Chairman, Board for Correction of Naval Records

- To: Secretary of the Navy
- Subj: REVIEW OF NAVAL RECORD OF
- Ref: (a) 10 U.S.C. §1552 (b) USECDEF Memo of 25 Jul 18 (Wilkie Memo)
- Encl: (1) DD Form 149 with attachments(2) Case summary(3) Subject's naval record (excerpts)

1. Pursuant to the provisions of reference (a), Petitioner, a former member of the Marine Corps, filed enclosure (1) requesting upgrade to his characterization of services on his Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214). Enclosures (1) through (3) apply.

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 review the application on its merits.

c. Petitioner enlisted in the Marine Corps and began a period of active service on 6 June 1991.

d. Petitioner's Recruit Evaluation Card (REC) indicated performance and conduct deficiencies beginning on 12 June 1991 that included shirking, malingering, and demonstrated inability to adapt. He showed improvement from 22 June 1991 to 24 June 1991, but then "went

back to his old ways" on 26 June 1991. On 27 June 1991, Petitioner's REC indicated that he told the Fire Watch that he was going to hang himself but to come "rescue" him in two minutes, before he killed himself. Petitioner was referred to a Neuropsychiatric exam for suicidal ideation and disclosed that he had attempted suicide pre-service and that he now planned to either hang himself or shoot himself at the range because he couldn't handle the stress. Petitioner was diagnosed with no mental illness, no psychiatric indications, and as manipulative, pursuing actions to secure a discharge.

e. Petitioner continued with his platoon until he was rolled back to a new platoon for a "clean slate" on 23 July 1991. On 7 August 1991, after continued performance and conduct deficiencies, Petitioner was notified of administrative separation processing for entry level separation (ELS) by reason of fraudulent entry for failure to disclose a pre-service medical factor (suicide attempt). He waived his right to consult with counsel and elected to make a statement where he described his pre-service suicide attempt and confirmed that he did not tell his recruiter. The separation authority approved his discharge and he was so discharged with an uncharacterized ELS on 12 August 1991.

f. Petitioner contends that his recruiter lied to him about physical contact during recruit training and that his drill instructor grabbed him by the back of the neck and pulled him into the air, after which he went to sick call to speak to someone in mental health. For purposes of clemency and equity consideration, Petitioner did not provide supporting documentation describing post-service accomplishments or advocacy letters.

CONCLUSION

Upon careful review and consideration of all of the evidence of record, the Board determined that Petitioner's request warrants partial relief. Specifically, the Board believed it was in the interest of justice to change Petitioner's narrative reason for separation to remove the reference to fraudulent entry. Therefore, the Board determined his basis for separation should be changed to reflect a Secretarial Authority discharge.

Notwithstanding the recommended corrective action below, the Board found no error in Petitioner's uncharacterized ELS discharge. Applicable regulation authorizes an entry level separation when separation action is initiated within 180 days of continuous active service. Petitioner's total time in service was two months and seven days. While there are exceptions to policy in cases involving extraordinary performance or misconduct, the Board determined neither applies in Petitioner's case. Further, the Board determined Petitioner's assigned reentry code remains appropriate in light of his unsuitability for further military service.

In making this finding, the Board considered that Petitioner enlisted fraudulently by failing to disclose potentially disqualifying information during his service in-processing. Additionally, the Board determined that any injustice in Petitioner's record is adequately addressed by the recommended corrective action.

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

RECOMMENDATION

That Petitioner be issued a new DD Form 214, for the period ending 12 August 1991, indicating his separation authority as "MARCORSEPMAN par. 6214," separation code as "JFF1," and narrative reason for separation as "Determination of Service Secretary – Secretary of the Navy Plenary Authority."

That no further changes be made to Petitioner's 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.

