



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

█  
Docket No. 5549-24

Ref: Signature Date

From: Chairman, Board for Correction of Naval Records

To: Secretary of the Navy

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

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

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 correction to his characterization of service on his Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214) and back pay for a denied Department of Veterans Affairs claim. Enclosure (2) applies.

2. The Board, consisting of █, █, and █, reviewed Petitioner's allegations of error and injustice on 7 October 2024 and, pursuant to its regulations, determined the corrective action indicated below should be taken on the available evidence of record. Documentary material considered by the Board consisted of the enclosures, relevant portions of his naval service records, and applicable statutes, regulations, and policies including reference (b).

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 Navy with a waiver and began a period of active duty 5 March 1984. Upon his enlistment, Petitioner admitted preservice use of controlled substances and his past history of involvement with civil authorities. On 2 April 1984, Petitioner was evaluated by a medical officer after he experienced a hard time adjusting to active duty. He alleges that he erroneously enlisted for active duty service vice the Reserve. On 16 May 1984, Petitioner was

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referred to a Naval Aptitude Board as a result of adjustment problems and suicide attempts. Consequently, Petitioner was diagnosed with Adjustment Disorder with Depressed Mood and recommended for separation.

d. Unfortunately, the documents pertinent to the Petitioner's administrative separation are not in his official military personnel file (OMPF). Notwithstanding, the Board relies on a presumption of regularity to support the official actions of public officers and, in the absence of substantial evidence to the contrary, will presume that they have properly discharged their official duties. Petitioner's Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214), reveals that he was separated from the Navy on 25 May 1984 with an Uncharacterized (Entry Level Separation) characterization of service, his narrative reason for separation is "Other Physical / Mental Condition – Personality Disorder" his separation code is "JFX," and his reenlistment code is "RE-4." Petitioner's separation code is consistent with a discharge due to Personality Disorder.

e. Petitioner contends he suffered from PTSD incurred while on active duty and believes he deserves an Honorable characterization as a result. The Board noted Petitioner provided no evidence in support of his claim of PTSD.

#### CONCLUSION:

Upon review and consideration of the evidence of record, the Board determined Petitioner's request partial relief. Specifically, in keeping with the letter and spirit of existing guidance, 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 discharge 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.

Notwithstanding the recommended corrective action below, the Board determined Petitioner's assigned uncharacterized entry level separation remains appropriate. Service regulations direct the assignment of an uncharacterized entry level separation when a service member is processed for separation within their first 180 days of active duty. While there are exceptions to policy in cases involving extraordinary performance or misconduct, the Board determined neither applied in Petitioner's case.

Additionally, the Board determined Petitioner's assigned reentry code remains appropriate based on his unsuitability for further military service.

Finally, the Board has no purview over Department of Veterans Affairs claims and no authority to grant payment related to such claims. Therefore, the Board took no action on Petitioner's request for back pay of his claim.

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

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RECOMMENDATION:

That Petitioner be issued a new Certificate of Release from Active Duty (DD Form 214), for the period ending 25 May 1984, indicating his narrative reason for separation was "Secretarial Authority," separation code was "JFF," and separation authority was "MILPERSMAN 1910-164."

That no further changes be made to Petitioner's record.

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.

10/29/2024

