



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

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Docket No. 10456-24
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
(3) Subject's naval record (excerpts)

1. Pursuant to the provisions of reference (a), Petitioner, a former member of the Navy, filed enclosure (1) requesting his narrative reason for separation be changed from Personality Disorder to post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) on his Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214). Enclosures (1) through (3) apply.

2. The Board, consisting of ■■■■■■■■■■, ■■■■■■■■■■, and ■■■■■■■■■■, reviewed Petitioner's allegations of error and injustice on 17 March 2025 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 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 and began a period of active service on 30 July 1997.

d. Petitioner completed his initial training pipeline and reported aboard his ship on 5 April 1998.

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e. Unfortunately, the documents pertinent to Petitioner's administrative separation are not in his official military personnel file (OMPF). Notwithstanding, the Board relied on a presumption of regularity to support the official actions of public officers and, in the absence of substantial evidence to the contrary, presumed that they have properly discharged their official duties. Based on the information contained on Petitioner's Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214), he was separated on 1 June 1998 with an "Honorable" characterization of service, narrative reason for separation of "Personality Disorder," reentry code of "RE-3G," and separation code of "GFX;" which corresponds to Personality disorder, not amounting to a disability, which potentially interferes with assignment to or performance of duty.

f. Petitioner contends he has been diagnosed with service-connected PTSD and was discharged wrongfully for personality disorder. Petitioner included documentation from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) indicating he has been granted a service connection from PTSD, existing prior to entry, that was service aggravated. Petitioner also included Doctors' notes describing Petitioner's childhood trauma and psychiatric treatment.

CONCLUSION

Upon careful review and consideration of all of the evidence of record, the Board determined that Petitioner's request warrants partial relief. Specifically, in keeping with the letter and spirit of the Wilkie Memo, 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 request to change his reason for separation to reflect "PTSD" is not supported by the evidence. First, the Board noted that "PTSD" is not an approved narrative reason for separation. Therefore, the Board declined to change his narrative reason for separation to "PTSD" based solely on that basis. However, the Board also determined insufficient evidence exists that Petitioner was erroneously diagnosed and separated for his personality disorder. While the Board considered the post-discharge medical evidence and VA rating for PTSD, they also determined it was insufficient to overcome the presumption of regularity associated with his presumed in-service diagnosis of personality disorder; which formed the basis for his administrative separation.

Finally, the Board considered that, while "PTSD" is not an authorized narrative reason for separation, the existence of a serious mental health condition could qualify for a disability separation. However, the Board determined insufficient evidence exists to support such relief in Petitioner's case. In making this finding, the Board noted Petitioner was not diagnosed with PTSD at the time of his discharge and there was no evidence that a medical provider determined he was unfit for continued naval service due to PTSD. Rather, he was deemed unsuitable for further military service due to symptoms related to his diagnosed personality disorder. Further, and more importantly, the Board also considered that Petitioner failed to fully disclose his

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history of serious mental health issues and criminal activity¹ as part of his enlistment process. The Board concluded that, more likely than not, Petitioner would not have met induction standards based on his preexisting mental health history and related history of adolescence violence. Therefore, even if he was unfit as a result of an aggravation of his preexisting PTSD condition, the Board found that he did not qualify for a military disability discharge based on the fact his preexisting mental health condition was disqualifying for military service and should have resulted in an erroneous or fraudulent enlistment discharge.

Ultimately, the Board determined any injustice in Petitioner's record is adequately addressed by the recommended corrective action.

RECOMMENDATION

That Petitioner be issued a new DD Form 214 indicating, for the period ending 1 June 1998, that he was discharged under the separation authority of "MILPERSMAN 3630900," separation code of "JFF," narrative reason for separation of "Secretarial authority," and reenlistment code of "RE-1J."

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.

4/7/2025

[REDACTED]

Executive Director

Signed by: [REDACTED]

¹ In particular, the Board noted Petitioner's self-admitted arson attempt of his family home around age 12