



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

Docket No. 10460-24
Ref: Signature Date

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

Subj: REVIEW OF NAVAL RECORD OF
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 her discharge be changed to Honorable.
2. The Board consisting of [REDACTED], reviewed Petitioner's allegations of error and injustice on 3 March 2025 and, pursuant to its regulations, determined that 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 Petitioner's 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. Although Petitioner did not file her application in a timely manner, the Board found it in the interest of justice to waive the statute of limitations and consider the case on its merits.
 - b. Petitioner enlisted in the Navy and began a period of active duty on 12 November 1998.
 - c. On 9 August 1999, Petitioner was diagnosed with Adjustment Disorder with Mixed Disturbance of Emotions and Conduct (Resolving).
 - d. Consequently, she was notified of her pending administrative processing by reason of personality disorder. She waived her rights to consult with military counsel and submit a statement.

Subj: REVIEW OF NAVAL RECORD OF [REDACTED],
USN, XXX-XX-[REDACTED]

e. On 13 August 1999, the Separation Authority directed Petitioner be discharged with an Honorable (HON) characterization due to her reason of Personality Disorder.

f. On 14 August 1999, Petitioner was transferred to the Transient Personnel Department, Naval Support Activity [REDACTED] for separation.

g. On 16 August 1999, Petitioner commenced a period of unauthorized absence (UA) that lasted 253 days and ended in her apprehension.

h. Subsequently, her new commanding officer changed his discharge recommendation to General (Under Honorable Conditions) and stated, "[Petitioner] detached from [REDACTED] on 13 Aug 99 for transfer to the Transient Personnel Department, Naval Support Activity [REDACTED] for separation due to her personality disorder. SNM never reported to this command, and, since the [REDACTED] never sent advance word, we were unaware that she was in an unauthorized status. Member's status was discovered when she contacted PSD Anacostia for a copy of her W-2 tax information. [Petitioner] was subsequently informed that she had never been discharged from the U.S. Navy and was currently in a UA status. Due to the mix-up, she was given the opportunity to return to [REDACTED] and complete the discharge. However, she did not do so, and, as a result, was declared a deserter 21 March 2000. [Petitioner] was apprehended by civilian authorities in [REDACTED] on 26 March 2000 and returned to this command by [REDACTED]. After considering all of the factors, I decided not to pursue disciplinary action in this case. As a result, on 3 May 2000, her original discharge was executed. However, due to her extended absence, her service record now warranted a General discharge."

i. On 3 May 2000, Petitioner was discharged with a General (Under Honorable Conditions) (GEN) characterization of service by reason of personality disorder.

j. Petitioner contends she was recently diagnosed with anxiety and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. However, she is unable to access her local Department of Veterans Affairs due to her discharge status. Additionally, Petitioner checked the "PTSD" box on her application but did not provide any supporting evidence of her claim.

k. For purposes of clemency and equity consideration, the Board considered the totality of Petitioner's application, which consisted solely of what she stated on her DD Form 149 without any additional documentation for the Board's consideration.

CONCLUSION:

Upon careful review and consideration of all the evidence of record, the Board concludes 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

Subj: REVIEW OF NAVAL RECORD OF [REDACTED],
USN, XXX-XX [REDACTED]

that certain remedial administrative changes are warranted to the Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214).

Notwithstanding the recommended corrective action below, the Board determined Petitioner's assigned characterization of service remains appropriate. The Board carefully considered all potentially mitigating factors to determine whether the interests of justice warrant relief in Petitioner's case in accordance with the Wilkie Memo. These included, but were not limited to, Petitioner's desire for a discharge upgrade and the previously discussed contentions.

After thorough review, the Board concluded these potentially mitigating factors were insufficient to warrant relief. Specifically, the Board noted Petitioner's significant period of unauthorized absence and the circumstances surrounding her failure to report for separation. Despite being given the opportunity to rectify her status, she did not return to complete her discharge and this led to her extended unauthorized absence and eventual apprehension. Additionally, the Board considered the remarks of her commanding officer who, while electing not to pursue disciplinary action as a matter of clemency, acknowledged that her extended absence justified a GEN discharge. Given these factors, the Board determined that additional clemency was unwarranted. Further, absent a material error or injustice, the Board declined to summarily change a discharge solely for the purpose of facilitating veterans' benefits, or enhancing educational or employment opportunities. Therefore, even in light of the Wilkie Memo and reviewing the record holistically, the Board did not find evidence of an error or injustice that warrants granting the Petitioner the relief she requested or granting the requested relief as a matter of clemency or equity.

Finally, the Board determined Petitioner's assigned reentry code remains appropriate in light of her original basis for separation. Ultimately, the Board determined any injustice in Petitioner's record is adequately addressed by the recommended corrective action.

RECOMMENDATION:

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

That Petitioner be issued a new Certificate of Release from Active Duty (DD Form 214) reflecting that, for the period ending 3 May 2000, her narrative reason for separation was "Secretarial Authority," the SPD code assigned was "JFF," and the separation authority was "MILPERSMAN 3630900."

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 Regulations, Section 723.6(e)), and

Subj: REVIEW OF NAVAL RECORD OF FORMER MEMBER [REDACTED],
USN, XXX-XX-[REDACTED]

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.

3/24/2025

