



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

██████████
Docket No. 11047-24
Ref: Signature Date

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

Subj: REVIEW OF NAVAL RECORD OF ██████████ USN,
██████████

Ref: (a) Title 10 U.S.C. § 1552
(b) Petitioner's Case File

Encl: (1) DD Form 149

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 that his naval record be corrected by changing his personality disorder diagnosis and the narrative reason for separation.

2. The Board, consisting of ██████████ and ██████████ reviewed Petitioner's allegations of error and injustice on 19 December 2024 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 relevant portions of the naval record, and applicable statutes, regulations, and policies.

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's application was not filed 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 entered active duty in the United States Navy on 24 January 1994. In March 1995, Petitioner was seen for psychiatric evaluation at Naval Hospital ██████████) for depressive symptoms due to difficulty adapting to the military. Petitioner underwent a second psychiatric evaluation on 6 January 1996. Based on that evaluation, the mental health clinic diagnosed Petitioner with Personality Disorder Not Otherwise Specified with Avoidant and Dependent Features and recommended administrative separation due to Petitioner's continued difficulty adjusting to the military environment. On 1 March 1996, Commanding Officer (CO) Field Medical Service School notified Petitioner of administrative separation for the convenience of the government due to personality disorder. Petitioner was advised of his rights and did not object to the separation processing.

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[REDACTED]

c. Petitioner was discharged on 3 June 1996; his Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214) states an Honorable characterization of service and "Personality Disorder" as the narrative reason for separation.

d. Petitioner requests that the narrative reason for separation on his DD Form 214 to be changed to Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)/Major Depression. Petitioner contends he was misdiagnosed and, after he separated, he was correctly diagnosed by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

CONCLUSION

Upon review and consideration of all the evidence of record, the Board finds the existence of an error warranting partial relief. In keeping with the letter and spirit of the current 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 concluded the preponderance of the evidence does not support Petitioner's contention that he was misdiagnosed in service. At the outset, the Board acknowledged that it substantially concurred with the contemporaneous findings and recommendation of the qualified medical professionals who evaluated and diagnosed Petitioner in 1995 and 1996. The Board found the recommendation to administratively separate for Convenience of the Government by reason of personality disorder to be reasonable and based on substantial evidence in the record. While the Board carefully considered petitioner's contentions and evidence, on balance, it was not persuaded by the arguments he made, and noted they did not sufficiently rebut the findings of the medical personnel in 1996.

Finally, the Board determined Petitioner's assigned reentry code remains appropriate in light of his unsuitability for further military service.

RECOMMENDATION

In view of the above, the Board recommends 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 June 1996, Petitioner's narrative reason for separation was "Secretarial Authority," the SPD code assigned was "JFF," and the separation authority was "MILPERSMAN 1910-164."

That a copy of this report of proceedings be filed in Petitioner's naval record.

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

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[REDACTED]

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 having assured compliance with its provisions, it is hereby announced that the foregoing corrective action, taken under the authority of the reference, has been approved by the Board on behalf of the Secretary of the Navy.

2/7/2025

