

Docket No. 11733-24 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 an upgrade to his characterization of service on his Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214). Enclosures (1) and (2) applies.

2. The Board consisting of **Sector**, reviewed Petitioner's allegations of error and injustice on 7 April 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 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. Although enclosure (1) was not filed in a timely manner, the statute of limitation was waived in the interests of justice.

b. Before applying to this Board, Petitioner exhausted all administrative remedies available under existing law and regulations within the Department of the Navy.

c. Petitioner enlisted in the Navy and began a period of active duty on 9 December 2003. Between 28 July 2004 and 25 July 2005, Petitioner received two Evaluation Reports and Counseling Records (NAVPERS 1616/26) describing his exemplary performance while assigned to the Navigation Department. On 25 February 2006, Petitioner was evaluated by a medical officer as a result of homicidal ideations. Consequently, Petitioner was diagnosed with Personality Disorder and recommended for administrative separation. On 1 March 2006, Petitioner was notified of the initiation of administrative separation proceedings because of

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convenience of the government due to personality disorder. Petitioner decided to waive his procedural rights and the separation authority approved a General (Under Honorable Conditions) (GEN) discharge characterization. On 20 March 2006, Petitioner was so discharged.

d. Post-discharge, Petitioner applied to the Naval Discharge Review Board (NDRB) for relief. The NDRB denied the Petitioner's request, on 14 January 2010, after determining his discharge was proper as issued.

e. Petitioner believes he served honorably and did exactly what he was supposed to do after catching his ex-wife sleeping with another Sailor. Petitioner contends he still wanted to serve and would have taken the steps if he knew at the time. Petitioner claims he acted honorably, asked for help, and believe people make him the scape goat. Petitioner states he continued to serve even after the incident, continued seeking help, and the chaplain and the therapist on board the ship assured him that he was acting honorably. Petitioner asserts he was up for early promotion and claims he was the only person qualified for multiple positions such as boat signalman<sup>1</sup>.

## CONCLUSION:

Upon review and consideration of all the evidence of record, the Board concludes that Petitioner's request warrants relief.

With regard to Petitioner's request that his discharge be upgraded, the Board found no basis for Petitioner's assigned GEN characterization of service. However, in light of reference (b), after reviewing the record holistically, given the totality of the circumstances, and purely as a matter of clemency, the Board concluded Petitioner's discharge characterization should be upgraded to "Honorable." In making this finding, the Board considered the mitigation evidence in the Petitioner's record which included exemplary performance and no evidence of misconduct. While the Board noted the homicidal ideations referenced in the 25 February 2006 medical evaluation, they determined this was insufficient evidence, by itself, to support his assigned characterization of service. The Board further noted Petitioner's Overall Trait Average was 3.83.

Additionally, 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. As a result of the foregoing, the Board determined Petitioner's narrative reason for separation, separation authority, and separation code should be changed to reflect a secretarial authority discharge.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Board noted Petitioner also checked the "PTSD" and "Other Mental Health" boxes on his application but chose not to provide any evidence in support of his claims. Nonetheless, the Board ultimately determined it was not necessary to consider Petitioner's claims in order to properly adjudicate his application.

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Further, the Board recommends that Petitioner's record be reviewed to determine his possible eligibility for awards and decorations.

**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) and discharge certificate, for the period ending 20 March 2006, reflecting that his character of service was "Honorable," the narrative reason for separation was "Secretarial Authority," the SPD code assigned was "JFF," the separation authority was "MILPERSMAN 1910-164," and the reentry code was "RE-1J."

That Petitioner's record be reviewed to determine his eligibility to awards and decorations. Based on the review, Navy Personnel Command is authorized to add any awards and decorations to Petitioner's DD Form 214.

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 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 reference (a), has been approved by the Board on behalf of the Secretary of the Navy.

