



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

Docket No: 0260-25
Ref: Signature Date

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

Subj: REVIEW OF NAVAL RECORD OF

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 that his discharge be upgraded.
2. The Board consisting of [REDACTED], reviewed Petitioner's allegations of error and injustice on 5 May 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. 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, the statute of limitations was waived in the interests of justice.
 - c. Petitioner's enlisted in the Navy and commenced active duty on 22 August 1985. After a period of continuous Honorable service, Petitioner immediately reenlisted and commenced a second period of active duty on 25 February 1993.
 - d. On 28 February 1994, Petitioner was issued administrative remarks documenting his physical readiness test (PRT) failure and advising him that three PRTs in a four-year period require processing for administrative separation. Petitioner subsequently failed two additional PRTs.

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[REDACTED]

e. On 7 June 1996, Petitioner was notified of his pending administrative separation by reason of weight control failure, and he elected his right to consult with counsel.

f. On 30 September 1996, his commanding officer directed his administrative separation from the Navy with a General (Under Honorable Conditions) characterization of service adding, "He has not made any progress nor has he attempted to achieve the physical readiness standards set forth in OPNAVINST 6110.1D." Petitioner was discharged on the same date. Upon his discharge, he was issued a Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214) that did not annotate his period of continuous Honorable service from 22 August 1985 to 25 February 1993.

g. Petitioner contends that his discharge was not the result of any disciplinary action or substandard performance, but solely due to failure to meet weight control standards; a condition he considers temporary and unrelated to his performance. He further contends that his service across all commands was Honorable with no instances warranting disciplinary action. For purposes of clemency and equity consideration, Petitioner provided a copy of his DD Form 214.

CONCLUSION:

Upon 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 weight control failure. Describing Petitioner's service in this manner attaches a considerable negative and unnecessary stigma, and fundamental fairness concerns dictate a change. Additionally, as discussed above, the Board noted Petitioner's DD Form 214 does not annotate his period of continuous Honorable service and requires correction.

Regarding Petitioner's request that his characterization of service be upgraded, the Board carefully considered all potentially mitigating factors to determine whether the interests of justice warrant relief in Petitioner's case in accordance with reference (b). 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 that the mitigating factors presented in support of Petitioner's request for a discharge upgrade were insufficient to warrant relief. Specifically, the Board found no error or inequity in Petitioner's assigned discharge. The Board noted physical fitness is a critical component of operational effectiveness and passing the physical fitness test and meeting physical fitness requirements ensures that personnel are physically prepared to meet the demands of Naval operations, combat scenarios, and mission-critical tasks; factors that ultimately enhancing force resilience. Additionally, the Board determined a lack of physical readiness compromises mission success, endangers fellow service members, and undermines overall force effectiveness. Finally, character of service is based, in part, on military bearing/character (MB) trait averages which are computed from marks assigned during periodic evaluations. Your MB average was 1.0; which was below the MB of 2.0 required at the time of your separation for a fully Honorable characterization of service.

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[REDACTED]

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 you the relief you requested or granting relief as a matter of clemency or equity.

RECOMMENDATION:

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

Navy Personnel Command (NPC) shall conduct a comprehensive review of block 12 of Petitioner's Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214).

That Petitioner be issued a new Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214), reflecting that, for the period ending 30 September 1996, Petitioner's narrative reason for separation was "Secretary Plenary Authority," the SPD code assigned was "JFF," the separation authority was "MILPERSMAN 3630900," and that his continuous Honorable service is accurately annotated in the remarks section.

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

5/20/2025

[REDACTED]