



Unfortunately, the documents pertinent to your administrative separation are not in your official military personnel file (OMPF). Notwithstanding, the Board relies on a presumption of regularity to support the official actions of public officers and, in the absence of substantial evidence to the contrary, will presume that they have properly discharged their official duties. Based on the information contained on your Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214), you were separated, on 23 August 1996, with an “Uncharacterized” characterization of service, narrative reason for separation of “Failure to complete commissioning or warrant program,” reentry code of “RE-3K,” and your separation code of “KHD;” which corresponds to Disenrolled from Naval Academy or other officer program.

The Board carefully considered all potentially mitigating factors to determine whether the interests of justice warrant relief in your case in accordance with the Kurta, Hagel, and Wilkie Memos. These included, but were not limited to, your desire to change your discharge characterization of service and your contentions that you developed PTSD after a near-drowning incident, leading to your inability to meet the academic and physical demands of training, and that you require access to Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) counseling services. For purposes of clemency and equity consideration, the Board considered the totality of your application; which included your DD Form 149, your statement, medical after visit summaries, resumes, articles, education certificate, and the Master’s program package and acceptance into Master’s program you provided.

As part of the Board’s review process, a qualified mental health professional reviewed your contentions and the available records and issued an AO on 14 May 2025. The AO stated in pertinent part:

Petitioner contends he incurred Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) during Military service, which may have contributed to the circumstances of his separation.

Petitioner entered active duty in the US Navy in July 1996. In August 1996, he received an uncharacterized discharge due to failure to complete commissioning or warrant program. He denied mental health symptoms during his separation physical.

Petitioner contended that he incurred PTSD from a “near-drowning incident under duress” while in his initial training. He provided civilian medical records noting intermittent treatment between October 2019 and January 2025 for medical complaints as well as “anxiety and depression. Has had depression for years but things are not going well at home or work and he is really stressed.” He provided evidence of character and post-service accomplishment.

There is no evidence that he was diagnosed with a mental health condition in military service, or that he exhibited any psychological symptoms or behavioral changes indicative of a diagnosable mental health condition. He has provided evidence of mental health concerns that are temporally remote to his military service and appear unrelated. Unfortunately, available records are not sufficiently

detailed to establish clinical symptoms in service or provide a nexus with the circumstances of his separation from service.

The AO concluded, “There is insufficient evidence of a diagnosis of PTSD or another mental health condition that may be attributed to military service. There is insufficient evidence to attribute his military separation to PTSD or another mental health condition.”

After thorough review, the Board concluded your potentially mitigating factors were insufficient to warrant relief. The Board determined your uncharacterized discharge remains appropriate. The Board noted that you were discharged after forty-two days of active duty and applicable regulations required an uncharacterized, entry-level separation if the processing of an individual's separation began within 180 days of the individual's entry on active service. While the Board acknowledged there are exceptions in cases involving unusual circumstances involving extraordinary performance or misconduct, they determined neither applied in your case.

Further, the Board concurred with the AO and determined that there is insufficient evidence of a diagnosis of PTSD or another mental health condition that may be attributed to military service. The Board also agreed that there is insufficient evidence to attribute your military separation to PTSD or another mental health condition. As explained in the AO, you provided medical evidence that was temporally remote to your service and appears unrelated. Finally, absent a material error or injustice, the Board declined to summarily upgrade a discharge solely for the purpose of facilitating veterans' benefits.

While the Board carefully considered the evidence you submitted in mitigation and commends your post-discharge accomplishments, even in light of the Kurta, Hagel, and Wilkie Memos and reviewing the record liberally and 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. Accordingly, given the totality of the circumstances, the Board determined that your request does not merit relief.

You are entitled to have the Board reconsider its decision upon submission of new matters, which will require you to complete and submit a new DD Form 149. New matters are those not previously presented to or considered by the Board. In this regard, it is important to keep in mind that a presumption of regularity attaches to all official records. Consequently, when applying for a correction of an official naval record, the burden is on the applicant to demonstrate the existence of probable material error or injustice.

Sincerely,

7/18/2025

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Executive Director

Signed by: ■