

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

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

> Docket No. 1411-25 Ref: Signature Date

From: Chairman, Board for Correction of Naval Records

To: Secretary of the Navy

Subj: REVIEW OF NAVAL RECORD OF FORMER MEMBER

USN, XXX-XX-

Ref: (a) Title 10 U.S.C. §1552

(b) USECDEF Memo of 25 Jul 18 (Wilkie Memo)

Encl: (1) DD Form 149 w/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 for an upgrade of his characterization of service and remove the designation of "unsuitability character and behavior disorders" from all records; including but not limited to his Report of Separation From Active Duty (DD Form 214) and other discharge/separation records.
- 2. The Board, consisting of ______, _____, and ______, reviewed Petitioner's allegations of error and injustice on 21 May 2025 and, pursuant to its regulations, determined that the corrective action indicated below should be taken. Documentary material considered by the Board consisted of Petitioner's application together with all material submitted in support thereof, relevant portions of Petitioner's naval record, applicable statutes, regulations, and policies, to include 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'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 enlisted in the Navy and began a period of active duty on 31 July 1974.
- c. On 25 August 1975, Petitioner received non-judicial punishment (NJP) for two specifications of unauthorized absence (UA), totaling 31 days, and missing movement.
- d. On 10 May 1976, Petitioner was found guilty by a summary court-martial (SCM) of two specifications of UA totaling 21 days.

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

- e. 26 May 1976, Petitioner received a mental health evaluation and was diagnosed with an inadequate personality disorder and passive dependent personality. He recommended for administrative separation based on his diagnosis and desire to be discharged.
- f. Subsequently, Petitioner was notified that he was being recommended for administrative discharge from the Navy by reason of unsuitability character and behavior disorder. Petitioner was advised of and waived his procedural right to consult with military counsel and to submit a rebuttal statement to his administrative separation processing.
- g. The separation authority directed Petitioner's administrative discharge from the Navy with a General (Under Honorable Conditions) (GEN) character of service by reason of character and behavior disorders. Petitioner was so discharged on 18 June 1976.
 - h. Petitioner contends the following injustices warranting relief:
- (1) Due to circumstances surrounding a pay dispute, possible embezzlement of payroll by others, and a lack of timely responsive correction by his chain of command upon his reporting, a correction to his records would be right and just;
- (2) Any time he was absent from the ship he was in furtherance of the investigation into missing funds; and
- (3) He was travelling to or in custody at to continue restorative communications with his Senator toward resolving the issues akin to a whistleblower hence reprisal.

CONCLUSION

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

In keeping with the letter and spirit of the Wilkie Memos, the Board determined that it would be an injustice to label one's discharge as being for a diagnosed character and behavior and/or personality 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. The Board determined 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. Accordingly, the Board concluded that Petitioner's narrative reason for separation, separation code and, separation authority should be changed to reflect a Secretarial Authority discharge in the interests of justice to minimize the likelihood of negative inferences being drawn from his naval service in the future. Notwithstanding the recommended corrective action below, the Board determined Petitioner's assigned reentry code remains appropriate in light of his unsuitability for further military service.

Regarding Petitioner's request for a discharge upgrade, the Board carefully considered all potentially mitigating factors to determine whether the interests of justice warrant relief in his case in accordance with reference (b). These included, but were not limited to, Petitioner's

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

desire for a discharge upgrade and the previously mentioned contentions raised by Petitioner in his application. For purposes of clemency and equity consideration, the Board considered the totality of Petitioner's application; which consisted solely of his DD Form 149 without any other additional documentation.

After thorough review, the Board concluded Petitioner's potentially mitigating factors were insufficient to warrant granting a change to his assigned characterization of service. Specifically, the Board determined that Petitioner's misconduct, as evidenced by his NJP and SCM conviction, outweighed these mitigating factors. In making this finding, the Board considered the seriousness of his misconduct and concluded his misconduct showed a complete disregard for military authority and regulations. The Board observed Petitioner was given opportunities to correct his conduct deficiencies but chose to continue to commit misconduct; which led to his GEN discharge. His conduct not only showed a pattern of misconduct but was sufficiently pervasive and serious to negatively affect the good order and discipline of his command. Furthermore, the Board determined that the evidence of record did not demonstrate that Petitioner was not responsible for his conduct or that he should otherwise not be held accountable for his actions. The Board found that his misconduct was intentional and made him unsuitable for continued naval service.

Finally, the Board found no evidence to support Petitioner's contention that he was discharged as a reprisal action.

Therefore, the Board determined that there was no impropriety or inequity in Petitioner's discharge and concluded that his misconduct and disregard for good order and discipline clearly merited his discharge. 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 Petitioner a discharge upgrade or granting an upgrade as a matter of clemency or equity. Ultimately, the Board concluded that any injustice in Petitioner's record is adequately addressed by the recommended corrective action.

RECOMMENDATION

In view of the above, the Board recommends that the following corrective action be taken on Petitioner's naval record in the interests of justice:

That Petitioner be issued a new Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214) indicating that, for the period ending on 18 June 1976, Petitioner's narrative reason for separation was "Secretarial Authority," the SPD code assigned was "JFF," and the separation authority was "Bupers Authority 3850220."

That no further correction action be taken on Petitioner's naval record.

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

4. It is certified that 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.

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

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.

