



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

█
Docket No. 1553-25

Ref: Signature Date

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

Subj: REVIEW OF NAVAL RECORD OF FORMER MEMBER █
XXX XX █ USMC

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 of his characterization of service to Honorable. Enclosures (1) and (2) apply.

2. The Board, consisting of █, █, and █, reviewed Petitioner's allegations of error and injustice on 2 June 2025 and, pursuant to its regulations, determined 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, 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.

b. Although enclosure (1) was not filed in a timely manner, the statute of limitation was waived in the interests of justice.

c. The Petitioner enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps and commenced active duty on 17 May 1966. During his enlistment processing, Petitioner failed to reveal the existence of a left knee condition.

d. On 3 June 1966, Petitioner was diagnosed with internal derangement, left knee joint (existed prior to entry). Subsequently, the separation authority directed Petitioner be discharged with a General (Under Honorable Conditions) characterization of service by reason of

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Convenience of the Government (Erroneous Enlistment)¹. On 14 June 1966, he was so discharged.

e. Petitioner contends that: (1) he had no disciplinary actions under the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) and no documented performance issues during service, (2) there is no indication in his record to justify the action reflected on his DD Form 214, (3) he served voluntarily in defense of our country, and as a nation that values evidence-based decision-making, his record should be viewed in that light.

f. For purposes of clemency and equity consideration, Petitioner provided a National Personnel Records Center letter, his DD Form 214, and official military personnel file (OMPF) documents.

CONCLUSION:

Upon careful review and consideration of all the evidence of record, the Board concludes that Petitioner's request warrants full relief. Although the Board did not find that the Petitioner was discharged in error, it concluded, after conducting a holistic review and evaluating the totality of the circumstances in light of the guidance provided in reference (b), that an upgrade in the characterization of service to "Honorable" is warranted as a matter of clemency. While the Board acknowledged Petitioner purposefully concealed a disqualifying medical condition during his enlistment processing, they considered that he did so based on his strong desire to service his country during a time of war.

RECOMMENDATION:

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

Petitioner be issued a new Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214) indicating, for the period ending 14 June 1966, Petitioner's character of service was "Honorable."

Petitioner will be issued an Honorable Discharge Certificate.

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 Regulation, Section 723.6(e)) and

¹ While the separation authority noted Petitioner's fraudulent enlistment, a determination was made it was not sufficiently serious to merit an undesirable characterization of service. Therefore, Petitioner was assigned a GEN characterization of service.

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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.

6/16/2025

