



information contained on your Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214), you were separated from the Navy, on 16 August 1993, with an “Entry Level Separation (Uncharacterized)” characterization of service, your narrative reason for separation is “Entry Level Performance/Conduct,” your reenlistment code is “RE-4,” and your separation code is “JGA;” which corresponds to entry level performance and conduct.

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 upgrade your discharge character of service and contention that: (1) you experienced a challenging childhood, marked by various forms of abuse, which greatly impacted your mental health and well-being, (2) you joined the Navy seeking a path toward a better life while still grappling with your mental health issues, and (3) you have been diagnosed with PTSD relating to your past experiences. You also request assistance in obtaining the National Defense Medal that you earned during basic training. For purposes of clemency and equity consideration, the Board considered the totality of your application; which included your DD Form 149 and the evidence you provided in support of it.

As part of the Board’s review, a qualified mental health professional reviewed your contentions and the available records and provided the Board with an AO on 22 May 2025. The AO stated in pertinent part:

Petitioner was appropriately referred for psychological evaluation and properly evaluated during his enlistment. His adjustment disorder diagnosis was based on observed behaviors and performance during his period of service, the information he chose to disclose, and the psychological evaluations performed by the mental health clinicians. His mental health concerns were considered pre-existing to military service and undisclosed during pre-enlistment processing. He has provided evidence of other mental health concerns that are temporally remote to his military service and appear unrelated. Furthermore, it is difficult to consider how PTSD or another mental health condition would account for his early separation from service, as it is likely that he would not have been accepted into service if he had fully disclosed his mental health history during pre-enlistment evaluation.

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

After thorough review, the Board concluded your potentially mitigating factors were insufficient to warrant relief. Specifically, the Board determined that your assigned uncharacterized entry-level separation remains appropriate. Applicable regulations authorize an uncharacterized entry-level separation if the processing of an individual's separation begins within 180 days of the individual's entry on active service; as in your case. While there are exceptions to policy in cases involving misconduct or extraordinary performance, the Board determined neither exception applies in your case.

Further, the Board concurred with the AO that there is insufficient evidence of a diagnosis of PTSD or another mental health that may be attributed to military service, and there is insufficient evidence that the circumstances of your separation from service may be attributed to PTSD or another mental health condition incurred during your military service. As the AO explained, your mental health concerns were considered pre-existing to military service and undisclosed during your pre-enlistment processing. Finally, the Board determined your provided evidence of other mental health concerns is too temporally remote to your military service and appear unrelated.

As a result, while the Board carefully considered the evidence you submitted in mitigation, 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.

Regarding your request for assistance in obtaining the National Defense Service Medal (NDSM), the Board noted your Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214) annotates the NDSM. The NDSM is readily available at a local commerce store or online for your purchase.

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

