



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF NAVAL RECORDS
701 S. COURTHOUSE RD
ARLINGTON, VA 22204

[REDACTED]
Docket No. 3937-25
Ref: Signature Date

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

Subj: REVIEW OF NAVAL RECORD OF [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Ref: (a) 10 U.S.C. §1552
(b) USECDEF Memo of 25 Jul 18 (Wilkie Memo)
(c) USECDEF Memo of 25 Aug 17 (Kurta Memo)

Encl: (1) DD Form 149 with attachments
(2) Case summary
(3) Subject's naval record (excerpts)
(4) Advisory Opinion of 1 Aug 25

1. Pursuant to the provisions of reference (a), Petitioner, a former member of the Marine Corps, filed enclosure (1) requesting his narrative reason for separation be changed¹ on his Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214). Enclosures (1) through (3) apply.

2. The Board, consisting of [REDACTED] reviewed Petitioner's allegations of error and injustice on 29 September 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, and applicable statutes, regulations, and policies, to include references (b) and (c). Additionally, the Board also considered enclosure (4), the advisory opinion (AO) furnished by qualified mental health provider, which was previously provided to Petitioner². Although Petitioner was afforded an opportunity to submit a rebuttal, Petitioner did not do so.

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 accordance with the Kurta Memo.

¹ Petitioner requested his reason for separation be changed from "unsuitability – personality disorder" to less stigmatizing language

² Ultimately, the Board determined the AO was not necessary in adjudicating Petitioner's case.

c. Petitioner enlisted in the Marine Corps and began a period of active service on 31 January 1979.

d. On 31 January 1980, Petitioner received non-judicial punishment (NJP) for sleeping on post. On 7 May 1980, Petitioner received NJP for unauthorized absence. On 28 August 1980, Petitioner received NJP for and orders violation by possessing alcohol in the barracks. On 9 October 1980, Petitioner was diagnosed with Personality Disorder during a psychiatric evaluation and recommended for administrative separation. Petitioner's personality disorder diagnosis was confirmed by a medical officer on 20 October 1980.

e. Consequently, Petitioner was notified of administrative separation processing by reason of character and behavior disorder. He consulted with counsel and waived his right to make a statement. Petitioner's commanding officer recommended an Honorable characterization of service and the separation authority approved the recommendation. On 19 December 1980, Petitioner was so discharged.

f. Petitioner contends his narrative reason is erroneous due to an inaccurate medical diagnosis, that he has been granted service-connection for major depressive disorder, and that the inaccurate and stigmatizing narrative reason on his DD Form 214 has caused undue hardship. Petitioner provided a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) compensation and pension rating decision noting 70% service-connection for major depressive disorder (recurrent), alcohol use disorder (remission), and amphetamine use disorder (remission).

CONCLUSION

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

The Board reviewed Petitioner's application under the guidance provided in references (b) and (c) and found no error in his discharge for unsuitability due to character and behavior disorder. In making this finding, the Board determined the medical diagnoses, issued contemporaneous with Petitioner's military service, was sufficient to support his basis for separation.

However, in keeping with the letter and spirit of the Kurta and 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 adjustment 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. Accordingly, the Board concluded 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.

RECOMMENDATION

That Petitioner be issued a new DD Form 214 indicating, for the period ending 19 December 1980, his separation authority as "MARCORSEPMAN 6012.1g," separation code as "JFF2," and narrative reason for separation as "Directed by the Secretary of the Navy to correct official records."

That no further changes be made to Petitioner's record.

That 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 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.

12/8/2025

