



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

██████████
Docket No. 5097-25
Ref: Signature Date

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

Subj: REVIEW OF NAVAL RECORD OF ██████████, ██████████,
USN, XXX-XX-██████████

Ref: (a) 10 U.S.C. §1552
(b) USD (P&R) Memo, "Updated Guidance on Correction of Military Records for Service Members Involuntary Separated for Refusal to Comply with Coronavirus Disease 2019 Vaccination Requirements," 1 April 2025
(c) ALNAV 062/21, subj: 2021-2022 Department of Navy Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccination Policy, dtg 302126Z AUG 21
(d) Executive Order 14184, Reinstating Service Members Discharged Under the Military's COVID-19 Vaccination Mandate, 27 January 2025
(e) SECNAVINST 5420.193, Board for Correction of Naval Records, 19 November 1997

Encl: (1) DD Form 149 w/attachments
(2) DD Form 214
(3) Navy Recruiting Command Retention Eligibility Memo, 13 May 25
(4) Community Management Support Branch (BUPERS-328) AO, 31 Jul 25
(5) Enlisted Force Plans and Policy Branch (N132C) AO, 12 Aug 25

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, hereinafter referred to as the Board, pursuant to the guidance in reference (b). Specifically, Petitioner requested that his record be corrected to reflect that he was never separated from the Navy and that he continued to serve without interruption¹.

2. The Board, consisting of ██████████, ██████████, and ██████████, reviewed Petitioner's allegations of error and injustice on 22 August 2025 and, pursuant to its governing policies and procedures, determined that the corrective action reflected in paragraph 5 below should be taken upon Petitioner naval record in the interests of justice. Documentary material considered by the Board included the enclosures; relevant portions of Petitioner's naval record; and applicable statutes, regulations, and policies.

3. Factual Background. The following are the relevant facts of Petitioner's case based upon review of his naval record and/or the matters provided with his application:

¹ Petitioner styled his request for relief as simply reinstatement. His request is characterized as it is here because reinstatement with back pay necessarily entails correction of his naval record to reflect that the applicant was never separated from the Navy and continued to serve with interruption.

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a. On 24 June 2020, Petitioner enlisted in the United States Navy for a period of eight years, with a four-year active-duty obligation.

b. Petitioner entered active duty in the Navy pursuant to the enlistment described in paragraph 3a above on 29 March 2021. See enclosure (2).

c. On 7 January 2022, Petitioner was involuntarily discharged from the Navy for entry level performance and conduct with an Uncharacterized characterization of service. The entry level performance and conduct in question was his refusal to comply with the former COVID-19 vaccination mandate of reference (c) in violation of Article 92, Uniform Code of Military Justice. See enclosure (2).

d. By memorandum, Navy Recruiting Command certified that Petitioner was prescreened in accordance with reference (b) and determined to meet retention standards. See enclosure (3).

e. By memorandum dated 31 July 2025, BUPERS-328 advised the Board a review of the petitioner's Official Military Personnel File (OMPF) reflects he was an Seaman Apprentice. His Active-Duty Service Date (ADSD) was 29 March 2021, and his Expiration of Active Obligated Service (EAOS) was 28 March 2025. At the time of his EAOS he would not have been eligible for an SRB because Sailors must be a petty officer or E-3 designated striker. If designated as a striker, SRB eligibility would be dependent upon the rating for which he is designated. See enclosure (4).

f. By memorandum dated 12 August 2025, the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations (N132) advised the Board that Petitioner would have been eligible for advancement to SN/E3 effective 11 March 2022 with a TIR of 1 March 2022. Petitioner was a Surface/Seaman Professional Apprenticeship Career Track (PACT) Program guarantee and would not yet be eligible to E4 until rated. See enclosure (5).

4. Conclusion. Upon careful review and consideration of all the evidence of record, the Board found an injustice warranting relief.

a. According to reference (e), the COVID-19 vaccine mandate was an "unfair, overbroad, and completely unnecessary burden on our Service members" and the military "unjustly discharged those who refused the vaccine." Since there was no other basis for administrative separation apparent in Petitioner's naval record, the Board therefore found an injustice in that Petitioner was involuntarily separated from the Navy solely for refusing the former COVID-19 vaccination mandate.

b. Having found an injustice in that Petitioner was involuntarily separated from the Navy solely for refusing the former COVID-19 vaccination mandate, the Board also found an injustice in any and all adverse actions that followed from or contributed to that separation.

5. Recommendations. Having found an injustice in that Petitioner was involuntarily separated from the Navy solely for refusing the former COVID-19 vaccination mandate, the Board recommends that the following corrective actions be taken on Petitioner's naval record.

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a. The following recommended corrective actions are contingent upon Petitioner's acceptance of the Navy's offer of reinstatement subject to the terms of reference (b).²

(1) That Petitioner's record be corrected to reflect that he was promoted to seaman (SN/E3) with a date of rank of 1 March 2022. NPC will make all appropriate service record entries of his correction promotion date.

(2) That Petitioner's naval record be corrected to reflect that he was not discharged from the Navy on 7 January 2022, but rather that he continued to serve honorably in the ranks indicated in paragraph 5a(1) above with no break in service at his last duty station. As such, Petitioner is to receive constructive service credit for the period from 7 January 2022 until the date that he is reinstated in the Navy. To effectuate this relief, NPC is directed to scrub Petitioner's record and remove any and all references to Petitioner's discharge, including but not necessarily limited to his DD Form 214 and the documents related to his administrative separation process.

(3) That documentation be added to Petitioner's naval record establishing that he completed an extension for twelve months to his current contract, establishing a new EAOS 28 March 2026. At the time of his EAOS he would not have been eligible for an SRB because Sailors must be a petty officer or E-3 designated striker. If designated as a striker SRB eligibility would be dependent upon the rating for which he is designated.

(4) That appropriate administrative fillers be inserted into Petitioner's naval record to remove the gap in his record between 7 January 2022 and his eventual reinstatement date during which he did not receive any evaluation reports.

b. The Board further recommends that that NPC scrub Petitioner's naval record and remove any adverse information pertaining to Petitioner's refusal to comply with the former COVID-19 vaccination mandate, including but not limited to any punitive actions, "Page 13" entries subject to the contingency referenced in paragraph 5(a) above and should be implemented without delay.

c. Copies of this record of proceedings shall be provided to the DFAS and the Defense Health Agency to facilitate the estimate of all pay and benefits which may be due to the Petitioner as a result of the contingent corrective actions referenced in paragraph 5a above.

6. 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 titled matter. I have assured compliance with the provisions of reference (e) in the Board's proceedings.

² Petitioner's failure to agree to this contingency, or to execute the terms of his reinstatement shall negate these recommendations. This contingency is applied in accordance with the guidance attached to reference (b).

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7. Pursuant to the authority delegated to me by the Secretary of the Navy in reference (e), I hereby approve the Board's recommendations and direct the corrective actions reflected in paragraph 5 above on his behalf.

