



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

[REDACTED]
Docket No. 5812-25
Ref: Signature Date

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

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

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

Encl: (1) DD Form 149 w/ enclosures

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 that his uncharacterized entry-level separation be upgraded to "Honorable." Enclosure (1) applies.

2. The Board, consisting of [REDACTED], [REDACTED], and [REDACTED], reviewed Petitioner's allegations of error and injustice on 20 June 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 2 July 2002.

c. While still in an entry-level status, Petitioner was diagnosed with Personality Disorder (PD) and was processed for administrative separation by reason of convenience of the government due to his PD diagnosis.

d. The recommendation for Petitioner's entry level separation due to his PD diagnosis was forwarded on 11 December 2002 and his uncharacterized discharged was approved on 19 December 2002.

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

e. At the time of his entry-level separation on 8 January 2003, Petitioner's narrative reason for separation was listed on his DD Form 214 as "Personality Disorder."

f. Petitioner contends that he has received a letter from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) summarizing his disability benefits and reflecting that he has an Honorable discharge. He submitted a copy of this letter in support of his claim.

CONCLUSION:

Upon review and consideration of all the evidence of record, the Board concluded that Petitioner's request warrants partial relief. The Board reviewed his application under the guidance provided in reference (b).

In keeping with the letter and spirit of reference (b), 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.

Notwithstanding the recommended corrective action below, the Board determined Petitioner's assigned uncharacterized entry level separation remains appropriate. The Board noted that Petitioner's administrative separation processing was initiated during his first 180 days of active duty while he was still in an entry-level status. Applicable service and Department of Defense regulations direct that members processed for separation in an entry-level status shall receive an uncharacterized discharge with the exception of cases in which the basis might warrant an Other Than Honorable characterization of service or when a characterization of Honorable is "clearly warranted by presence of unusual circumstances involving personal conduct and performance, and is approved on a case-by-case basis by the Secretary of the Navy." The Board determined neither of those exceptions apply in Petitioner's case.

Additionally, the Board noted that VA eligibility determinations for health care, disability compensation, and other VA-administered benefits are for internal VA purposes only. Such VA eligibility determinations, disability ratings, and/or discharge classifications are not binding on the Department of the Navy and have no bearing on previous active duty service discharge characterizations.

Further, the Board noted that recent policy changes implemented across the Department of Defense, which have increased the period of entry-level status to 365 days of active duty service, considerably reinforce the equity of uncharacterized discharged issued under the previous regulatory policy for the shorter entry-level period in place at the time of Petitioner's discharge.

Finally, the Board also determined Petitioner's assigned reentry code remains appropriate in light of his original basis for separation. Ultimately, the Board concluded any injustice in Petitioner's record is adequately addressed by the recommended corrective action.

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

In view of the foregoing, the Board finds the existence of an injustice warranting the following corrective action.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Petitioner be issued a new Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214) indicating that, for the period ending 8 January 2003, he was discharged under the authority of "MILPERSMAN 1900-164," with a narrative reason for separation of "Secretarial Authority," and separation code of "JFF."

That 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 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.

7/11/2025

