



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

██████████
Docket No. 6100-25
Ref: Signature Date

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

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

Ref: (a) Title 10 U.S.C. § 1552
(b) Official Military Personnel Folder (OMPF)

Encl: (1) DD Form 149 w/attachments

1. Pursuant to the provisions of the reference, Subject, hereinafter referred to as Petitioner, filed enclosure (1) with the Board for Correction of Naval Records (Board), Petitioner requested an upgrade to her "discharge rating."

2. The Board, consisting of ██████████, ██████████, and ██████████, reviewed Petitioner's allegations of error and injustice on 18 February 2026 and, pursuant to its regulations, determined that the corrective action indicated below should be taken on the available evidence of record. Documentary material considered by the Board consisted of Petitioner's application, enclosure (1), together with all material submitted in support thereof, relevant portions of Petitioner's naval record, and applicable statutes, regulations, and policies.

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 waived the statute of limitations in the interest of justice.

b. A review of reference (b) reveals that Petitioner enlisted in the Navy and commenced active duty on 1 August 1990. On 9 August 1990, while in basic training, she was evaluated by a clinical psychologist and diagnosed with adjustment disorder, moderate to severe, manifested by depressed mood and numerous somatic complaints. As a result of this diagnosis, Petitioner was processed for administrative separation. On 10 September 1990, Petitioner's commanding officer transmitted notification of her pending discharge to Naval Military Personnel Command explaining she was diagnosed with a personality disorder. On 13 September 1990, Petitioner underwent a Separation Physical Examination (SPE), which found that Petitioner was found qualified for separation. Thus cleared for separation, Petitioner was discharged on 14 September 1990 with an uncharacterized entry level separation (ELS) due to personality disorder.

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c. In her application, Petitioner requested to have an upgrade to her “discharge rating.” In support of her request, Petitioner asserted that she had a knee injury prior to entry but the Military Entrance Processing Station (MEPS) doctor let her enlist despite the injury. She further asserted that, during basic training, she suffered paralysis and was told she should never have been allowed to join. With respect to the timeliness of her petition, she stated that she suffered a traumatic brain injury (TBI) and did not have all of her documentation.

CONCLUSION:

Upon review and consideration of all the evidence of record, the Board concludes that Petitioner’s record warrants partial relief. In keeping with the letter and spirit of existing Board guidance, 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 no additional relief was merited.

The Board initially concluded Petitioner was appropriately processed for administrative separation based on her adjustment disorder diagnosis and assigned an uncharacterized ELS due to her active duty service time. While the Board carefully considered Petitioner’s contention that she was unfit based on an aggravation of a preexisting disability condition, the Board observed that Petitioner provided insufficient evidence to overcome the presumption of regularity that her administrative separation processing was procedurally and factually free of error. The Board applies a presumption of regularity to support the official actions of public officers and, in the absence of substantial evidence to the contrary, will presume that they have properly discharged their official duties.

Further, the Board also considered the totality of the circumstances to determine whether equitable relief was warranted in the interests of justice. In this regard, the Board considered, amongst other factors, Petitioner’s contentions regarding injuries suffered while on active duty warrant an upgrade of her uncharacterized ELS. Ultimately, the Board determined Petitioner’s uncharacterized ELS remains appropriate. Service regulations at that time directed the assignment of an uncharacterized ELS to service members processed for separation within their first 180 days of active duty. While exceptions to the policy existed, the Board determined none applied in Petitioner’s case. In reviewing the circumstances of Petitioner’s separation, the Board was unable to discern any unusual or extraordinary facts that would distinguish her case from countless other service members. Therefore, the Board found no basis to upgrade Petitioner’s discharge characterization in the interests of justice. Based also on the lack of unique circumstances or facts, the Board determined insufficient evidence of injustice exists to change Petitioner’s reason for separation to reflect a “medical” discharge” or to change her reentry code from “RE-4.”

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RECOMMENDATION:

In view of the above, the Board recommends the following corrective action.

That Petitioner shall be issued a new Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214) indicating, for the period ending on 14 September 1990, that she was discharged for the narrative reason of "Secretarial Authority," SPD code of "JFF," and separation authority of "MILPERSMAN 1910-164."

That all other information currently listed on Petitioner's DD Form 214 remains the same.

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.

3/10/2026

