



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF NAVAL RECORDS

701 S. COURTHOUSE RD

ARLINGTON, VA 22204

[REDACTED] Docket No. 6104-25

Ref: Signature Date

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

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

Ref: (a) 10 U.S.C. § 1552
(b) USD Memo, "Clarifying Guidance to Military Discharge Review Boards and Boards for Correction of Military/Naval Records Considering Requests by Veterans for Modification of their Discharge Due to Mental Health Conditions Sexual Assault, or Sexual Harassment," of 25 August 2017
(c) USD Memo, "Clarifying Guidance to Boards for Correction of Military/Naval Records Considering Cases Involving Both Liberal Consideration Discharge Relief Requests and Fitness Determinations," of 4 April 2024
(d) Official Military Personnel File (OMPF)

Encl: (1) DD Form 149 w/enclosures
(2) Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214)

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 correction of his reason for separation to "medical or administrative" on his Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214).

2. The Board, consisting of [REDACTED], [REDACTED], and [REDACTED], reviewed Petitioner's allegations of error and injustice on 24 September 2025 and, pursuant to its regulations, determined the corrective action indicated below should be taken on the available evidence of record. Documentary material considered by the Board consisted of the enclosures, relevant portions of naval records, and applicable statutes, regulations, and policies, to include references (b) and (c), the 25 August 2017 guidance from the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (USD (P&R)) (Kurta Memo) and the 4 April 2024 guidance from the USD (P&R) regarding review of cases involving both liberal consideration discharge relief requests and fitness determinations (Vazirani Memo).

3. The Board, having reviewed all of the evidence of record pertaining to Petitioner's allegations of error or injustice, finds as follows:

a. Before applying to this Board, Petitioner exhausted all administrative remedies available under existing law and regulation within the Department of the Navy. Although Petitioner did not file his application in a timely manner, the statute of limitations was waived in accordance with the Kurta Memo.

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b. A review of reference (d) reveals Petitioner enlisted in the Navy and entered active duty on 4 February 1997. Reference (d) does not contain Petitioner's administrative separation documentation but enclosure (2) reflects Petitioner's 11 August 1998 Honorable discharge by reason of convenience of the government due to personality disorder.

c. Petitioner contends he struggled with undiagnosed depression and post-traumatic stress syndrome (PTSD) while in service, and his depression and PTSD-induced unauthorized absence caused his senior leadership to dislike him and treat him unfairly. He further contends his leadership "wrote 'personality disorder' as the reason for separation" in order to prevent him from "having a military career, a good job outside of the military" and to ensure he had "a hard time securing any VA benefits." Petitioner also contends he was misdiagnosed with personality disorder and having the incorrect diagnosis on his DD Form 214 is negatively impacting his employment opportunities and making it tough to secure Department of Veteran Affairs benefits because the proper diagnosis is PTSD with depression. See enclosure (1).

CONCLUSION

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

Specifically, the Board observed Petitioner's DD Form 214 at enclosure (2) describes his narrative reason for separation as "Personality Disorder." In keeping with the letter and spirit of current guidance, the Board determined it would be an injustice to label one's discharge as being for a diagnosed character, 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 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 214¹.

Notwithstanding the recommended corrective action below, the Board determined Petitioner had no basis for medical discharge or retirement and denied his request. In reaching its decision, the Board fully considered and applied the clarifying guidance. The Board observed that in order to qualify for military disability benefits through the Disability Evaluation System (DES) with a finding of unfitness, a service member must be unable to perform the duties of his/her office, grade, rank or rating as a result of a qualifying disability condition. Alternatively, a member may be found unfit if his disability represents a decided medical risk to the health or the member or to the welfare or safety of other members; the member's disability imposes unreasonable requirements on the military to maintain or protect the member; or the member possesses two or more disability conditions which have an overall effect of causing unfitness even though, standing alone, are not separately unfitting.

¹ The Board determined Petitioner's narrative reason for separation, separation authority, and separation code should be changed to reflect a "Secretarial Authority" discharge. However, the Board concluded his reentry code remains appropriate in light of his personality disorder and PTSD diagnoses.

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In reviewing Petitioner's record, the Board concluded the preponderance of the evidence does not support a finding that he met any of the criteria for unfitness at the time of his discharge. The Board found Petitioner failed to provide sufficient evidence to demonstrate he had an unfitting condition at the time he was discharged from active duty with a personality disorder. While the Board noted the 2025 PTSD diagnosis provided by Petitioner, they determined it was temporally remote to his military service. Further, the Board considered that Petitioner was not referred to a medical board by a military medical provider. In fact, he was diagnosed and separated due to a Personality Disorder. Accordingly, based on the foregoing, the Board denied Petitioner's request to change his reason for separation to reflect a disability discharge or retirement.

RECOMMENDATION

In view of the above, the Board recommends the following corrective action be taken on Petitioner's naval record.

Petitioner shall be issued a new DD Form 214, for the period ending on 11 August 1998, indicating he was discharged for the narrative reason for separation of "Secretarial Authority," SPD code of "JFF," and separation authority of "MILPERSMAN 1910-164."

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.

11/20/2025

