

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

e. Subsequently, Petitioner was notified that he was being recommended for administrative discharge from the Marine Corps by reason of convenience of the government due to personality disorder. Petitioner waived his right to consult with counsel and to submit a rebuttal statement to separation.

f. Petitioner's commanding officer forwarded the administrative separation package to the separation authority recommending that Petitioner be administratively discharged from the Marine Corps by reason of convenience of the government due to personality disorder with an Honorable (HON) characterization of service.

g. The separation authority, however, directed Petitioner's administrative discharge from the Marine Corps with a General (Under Honorable Conditions) (GEN) characterization of service. Petitioner was so discharged on 25 May 2006. His trait averages were 4.2 (Proficiency) and 4.2 (Conduct).

h. Petitioner contends that he served honorably but endured hazing, abuse, and retaliation after reporting misconduct. He further contends that he was wrongfully diagnosed with a personality disorder and forced out with a mental health evaluation. Multiple civilian doctors have since diagnosed him with PTSD and other service-connected conditions.

i. As part of the Board's review, a qualified mental health professional reviewed Petitioner's contentions and the available records and provided the Board with enclosure (3), an advisory opinion (AO). The AO stated in pertinent part:

There is no evidence of a mental health condition or PTSD that existed during his military service. He submitted an anecdotal summary of "civilian medical diagnoses," however he did not submit any supporting documentation thereof. He indicated that "several" civilian providers diagnosed him with PTSD post-service but did not submit any corroborating evidence. Furthermore, his account of the events that caused PTSD does not meet criteria as per DSM-5-TR requirements. His personal statement is not sufficiently detailed to provide a nexus between a mental health condition and his in-service misconduct. Additional records (e.g., post-service mental health records describing the Petitioner's diagnosis, symptoms, and their specific link to his misconduct) may aid in rendering an alternate opinion.

The AO concluded, "is my considered clinical opinion that there is insufficient evidence of a diagnosis of PTSD that existed in service. There is insufficient evidence to attribute his misconduct to any primary mental health condition or PTSD that existed in service."

In response to the AO, Petitioner submitted additional evidence in support of his application. After reviewing the rebuttal evidence, the AO remained unchanged.

j. For purposes of clemency and equity consideration, the Board considered the totality of Petitioner's application; which included his DD Form 149 and the evidence he provided in support of it.

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CONCLUSION:

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

The Board found no error in Petitioner's separation by reason of convenience of the government due to personality disorder. However, the Board found no basis for Petitioner's assigned GEN characterization of service. The Board noted that Petitioner's record contained no misconduct and his assigned trait averages do not justify his GEN discharge. Therefore, the Board determined the interests of justice are served by upgrading his characterization of service to Honorable.

Furthermore, in keeping with the letter and spirit of the references (b) through (e), the Board determined that it would be an injustice to label one's discharge as being for a diagnosed character and behavior and/or personality 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. The Board determined 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 Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214). Accordingly, the Board concluded that Petitioner's narrative reason for separation, separation code, and separation authority should be changed to reflect a Secretarial Authority discharge in the interests of justice to minimize the likelihood of negative inferences being drawn from his naval service in the future.

Notwithstanding the recommended corrective action below, the Board concluded Petitioner's reentry code should remain unchanged based on Petitioner's unsuitability for further military service due to his diagnosed mental health condition. While the Board applied liberal consideration of Petitioner's mental health issues, they found the mitigation it offers insufficient to warrant a change his reentry code when weighed against the Marine Corps' interests in ensuring its members are physically qualified for service.

Ultimately, the Board determined any injustice in Petitioner's record is adequately addressed by the recommended corrective action.

RECOMMENDATION:

In view of the above, the Board recommends that the following corrective action be taken on Petitioner's naval record in the interests of justice:

That Petitioner be issued a new Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214) reflecting that, for the period ending 25 May 2006, that he was discharged with an "Honorable" characterization of service, narrative reason for separation of "Secretarial Authority," SPD code of "JFF1," and separation authority of "MARCORSEPMAN par 6214."

That Petitioner be issued an Honorable discharge certificate.

That no further correction action be taken on Petitioner's naval record.

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That a copy of this record of proceedings be filed in Petitioner's naval record.

4. It is certified that 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 Regulations, 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.

2/21/2026

