



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF NAVAL RECORDS

701 S. COURTHOUSE RD
ARLINGTON, VA 22204

██████████
Docket No. 7904-25
Ref: Signature Date

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

Subj: REVIEW OF NAVAL RECORD OF FORMER MEMBER ██████████
XXX XX ██████████ USMC

Ref: (a) 10 U.S.C. § 1552
(b) SECDEF Memo of 3 Sep 14 (Hagel Memo)
(c) USD Memo of 25 Aug 17 (Kurta Memo)
(d) USECDEF Memo of 25 Jul 18 (Wilkie Memo)

Encl: (1) DD Form 149 w/ enclosures
(2) Advisory Opinion (AO) of 7 Jan 26

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 discharge be upgraded to Honorable, his narrative reason for separation be changed to "Secretarial Authority," and his corresponding separation codes be updated accordingly. Enclosures (1) through (3) and references (a)-(e) apply.

2. The Board, consisting of ██████████, ██████████, and ██████████, reviewed Petitioner's allegations of error and injustice on 2 March 2026 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 references (b) through (d). Additionally, the Board considered enclosure (2), the advisory opinion (AO) furnished by qualified mental health provider, and Petitioner's response to the AO.

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 Marine Corps and began a period of active duty on 21 April 1982.

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c. Beginning on 21 June 1983, Petitioner participated in shore-based operations of the [REDACTED] with [REDACTED]. On 23 October 1983, during Petitioner's multi-national peace-keeping assignment, a suicide truck bomber detonated a bomb at the Marine barracks in [REDACTED].

d. On 14 May 1984, Petitioner received nonjudicial punishment (NJP) for violating Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ), Article 86 (unauthorized absence (UA) from 7 to 14 May 1984). Petitioner received punishment of reduction in rank, forfeiture of \$200 pay per month for 2 months, and 30 days of restriction.

e. On 23 December 1984, Petitioner received NJP for violating UCMJ, Article 86 (UA from 16 to 17 December 1984). Petitioner received punishment of 15 days restriction, 30 days extra duty, and forfeiture of \$100 pay per month for 2 months.

f. On 28 January 1985, Petitioner received NJP for violating UCMJ, Article 86 (UA from 22 to 23 January 1985); Article 91 (disrespect toward a non-commissioned officer); and Article 134 (wrongfully communicating a threat to injure by "kicking the ass" of anyone who wrote him up). Petitioner was awarded reduction in rank, forfeiture of \$300 pay per month for 2 months, and 60 days of restriction.

g. Petitioner completed his active duty service obligation, earning Proficiency/Conduct marks of 3.9/4.0. He was discharged from the Marine Corps on 27 April 1985, for the basis of Completion of Required Active Service, with a General (Under Honorable Conditions) (GEN) characterization of service and a reentry code of RE-4.

h. Petitioner requests an upgrade to his GEN characterization of service, a change to his narrative reason for separation to "Secretarial Authority," and an upgrade to his corresponding separation codes. Petitioner contends the following injustices warranting relief:

i. Petitioner experienced a traumatic event in Beirut, Lebanon when he survived the bombing of the Marine barracks that killed 241 Americans. Petitioner contends that his misconduct is connected to service-related mental health conditions that were caused by his experiences and survival of the bombing.

ii. Petitioner asks for liberal consideration and asserts that his command responded with punishment to manifestations of untreated Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and that he was not offered a mental health evaluation.

iii. Petitioner apologizes to the Board and the Marine Corps, stating that he understands that his misconduct negatively impacted his fellow Marines. He contends that the bombing impacted him such that he was angry, disgruntled, had a short fuse, and needed help.

i. Petitioner submitted supporting information with his request for relief to include for relief to include a personal statement, documents from Official Military Personnel File, Veterans Affairs' disability rating decision of 70% for service-connected PTSD, and numerous character letters. Petitioner also provided the Board with post-service medical treatment records documenting Petitioner's 1999 diagnosis of a high-grade lymphoma and a 7 July 2025 letter

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from Petitioner's oncologist. Petitioner's oncologist states that Petitioner was initially seen for his kidney cancer, which has now recurred and become metastatic and stage IV. Petitioner's oncologist notes that the cancer is now incurable with Petitioner's life expectancy of several years (1-3.5 years) remaining.

j. 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 (2). The AO stated in pertinent part:

There is no evidence that the Petitioner was diagnosed with or suffered from any mental health condition or symptoms while in service. He submitted evidence of post-service evidence of PTSD. It is possible that he suffered from PTSD symptoms following his combat tour to [REDACTED] in 1983. Shorter periods of UA could possibly have been caused by PTSD symptoms due to avoidance, distractibility, or poor concentration. However, disrespect and communicating a threat exceed that of what would be expected to have been caused by PTSD symptoms alone. Additional records (e.g., active-duty medical records, post-service mental health records describing the Petitioner's diagnosis, symptoms, and their specific link to his separation) may aid in rendering an alternate opinion.

The AO concluded, "it is my clinical opinion that there is sufficient evidence of a diagnosis of PTSD that existed in service. There is insufficient evidence to attribute *all* of his misconduct to PTSD or any other mental health condition." (Emphasis in original)

k. Petitioner submitted a reply to the AO in which he reiterated his request for an upgrade to his characterization of service, a change to his narrative reason for separation, and an update to his corresponding separation codes. Petitioner also cites the review policies articulated in the Kurta memo, reference (c), and highlights that evidence of a mental health condition can include deterioration in work performance. Petitioner's response also draws attention to his personal statement in which he made statements regarding his struggles with the events he witnessed in Beirut.

l. After reviewing Petitioner's rebuttal evidence, the AO remained unchanged.

CONCLUSION:

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

The Board concurred with the opinion and conclusion of the AO and found that there is sufficient evidence to establish that Petitioner had a diagnosis of PTSD that existed in service due to the occurrence of the tragic bombing of the Marine Corps barracks in 1983 while Petitioner was part of the Multi-National Peace-Keeping Force in [REDACTED]. Despite agreeing that not all Petitioner's conduct could be attributed to his PTSD, applying liberal consideration and taking into account the timing, nature, and frequency of Petitioner's four NJPs, the Board determined that Petitioner's misconduct was mitigated by his condition and experience. Therefore, in light of references (b) through (d), and applying liberal consideration while also

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reviewing the record holistically, purely as a matter of clemency and equity, the Board found that Petitioner's discharge characterization of service should be upgraded to Honorable and his reentry code should be changed to RE-1.

The Board also noted that notwithstanding the pattern of misconduct of four NJPs, Petitioner successfully completed his enlistment obligation and was discharged at the end of his active-duty service requirement. While noting that Petitioner's current narrative reason for separation of Completion of Required Active Service is not adverse and is reflective of Petitioner's fulfillment of his service obligation, the Board weighed Petitioner's express desire to change his narrative reason to "Secretarial Authority," the length of time since his discharge, the letters in support of Petitioner, and his terminal prognosis. Therefore, in keeping with the letter and spirit of reference (d), the Board determined that a change to Petitioner's narrative reason for separation and corresponding separation codes is warranted as a matter of equity.

RECOMMENDATION:

In view of the above, the Board directs the following corrective action:

That Petitioner be issued a new Certificate of Release from Active Duty (DD Form 214) reflecting that, for the period ending 27 April 1985, Petitioner was discharged with an "Honorable" characterization of service, under the authority of "MARCORSEPMAN par 6214," for the narrative reason of "Secretarial Authority," with a separation code of "JFF1," and a RE-code of "RE-1A."

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.

3/23/2026

[REDACTED]
Executive Director

Signed by: [REDACTED]