



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

■
Docket No. 8130-25
Ref: Signature Date

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

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

Ref: (a) 10 U.S.C. §1552

Encl: (1) DD Form 149 w/attachments
(2) Naval record (excerpts)

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 a new Certificate Report of Separation from Active Duty (DD Form 214) reflecting previous changes made to his record and to receive all decorations and awards that he earned for service in Vietnam. Enclosures (1) through (2) apply.

2. The Board, consisting of ■■■■■■■■■■, ■■■■■■■■■■, and ■■■■■■■■■■, reviewed Petitioner's allegations of error and injustice on 20 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.

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.

b. 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.

c. Petitioner enlisted in the Navy and began a period of active duty on 7 September 1973.

d. Petitioner deployed aboard the ■■■■■■■■■■ from January to June 1975 to the Western Pacific, during which he took part in ■■■■■■■■■■ and ■■■■■■■■■■ ■■■■■■■■■■.

e. On 21 May 1975, Petitioner was subject to non-judicial punishment for failing to obey a lawful order.

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f. On 7 June 1975, Petitioner was medically evaluated and diagnosed with character and behavior disorders.

g. Consequently, Petitioner was notified of administrative processing for Unsuitability on the basis of personality disorder. He waived his procedural rights to consult with counsel, and submitted a request for early release in lieu of awaiting final action by the Separation Authority.

h. Petitioner's separation was approved for unsuitability and he was directed to receive a type warranted by service record characterization of service.

i. On 25 June 1975, Petitioner was discharge with a General (Under Honorable Conditions) characterization of service. He was issued a Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214) that listed his characterization of service as "Under Honorable Conditions" and referred to a "DD215" for the type of certificate issues. Further, the National Defense Service Medal was listed in block 24.

j. On 31 July 1975, Petitioner was issued a Honorable characterization of service, and his was issued a Correction to DD Form 214, Report of Separation from Active Duty (DD Form 215) changing his characterization of service to "Honorable."

CONCLUSION:

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

The Board found no error with Petitioner's administrative separation discharge. However, in keeping with the letter and spirit of current Board guidance, the Board determined it is in the interests of justice to issue Petitioner a new DD Form 214 in order to eliminate any potential stigma associated with the erroneous GEN characterization of service list on his original DD Form 214 that was later corrected. Additionally, it would be an injustice to label one's discharge as being related to a mental health condition. Describing Petitioner's service in this manner attaches a considerable negative and unnecessary stigma, and fundamental fairness and medical privacy concerns dictate a change. While the Board noted Petitioner's original DD Form 214 did not annotate his narrative reason for separation, the Board considered the new DD Form 214 would contain that information. Accordingly, the Board concluded that Petitioner's discharge should not be labeled as such and that his reason for separation should be changed to reflect a "Secretarial Authority" discharge.

Finally, the Board determined that since Petitioner was discharged while his ship was still deployed, his decorations and medals likely were not appropriately annotated in his record. Therefore, the Board determined that the Petitioner may be entitled to additional awards for his service and a proper review of his record should be conducted.

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:

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That Petitioner be issued a new Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214) reflecting that, for the period ending 25 June 1975, he was discharged with an "Honorable" characterization of service, narrative reason for separation of "Separation for other good and sufficient reasons when determined by the Secretary of the Navy," SPD code of "JFF," reenlistment code of "RE-1J," and separation authority of "MILPERSMAN 3850220."

That Petitioner's record be reviewed to ensure his new DD Form 214 accurately indicates all of his primary specialties, all decorations, medals, badges, citations, campaign ribbons awarded, military education, and accurately reflect his period of service from 7 September 1973 to 25 June 1975.

That no further changes be made to Petitioner's record.

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.

4/3/2026

[REDACTED]

Executive Director

Signed by: [REDACTED]