



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF NAVAL RECORDS

701 S. COURTHOUSE RD

ARLINGTON, VA 22204

█
Docket No. 8164-25

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
(b) USECDEF Memo of 25 Jul 18 (Wilkie Memo)

Encl: (1) DD Form 149 with attachments
(2) Case summary

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 his characterization of service be upgraded.

2. The Board, consisting of █, █, █, reviewed Petitioner's allegations of error and injustice on 13 January 2026 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 his naval service records, 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.

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 U.S. Navy and began a period of active duty on 20 September 1988.

d. On 13 March 1989, Petitioner was seen by a mental health provider, diagnosed with a personality disorder which existed prior to enlistment. He was recommended to be processed out of the Navy.

e. On 17 March 1989, Petitioner was issued a counseling warning advising he was being retained in the naval service; however, the following deficiencies in his performance and or

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conduct were identified: failing to adapt to the naval service due to personality disorder with the following deficiencies, neurovegetative symptoms of depression, increased sensitivity, and ambivalence hopelessness. He was advised to successfully demonstrate by positive attitude and action that he could handle situations that occur in naval service without interference to his military duties and responsibilities.

f. However, Petitioner continued to receive psychiatric care for his diagnosed personality disorder through 4 April 1989. Consequently, Petitioner was notified of administrative separation processing for convenience of the government due to personality disorder. After Petitioner waived his rights, the Commanding Officer (CO) directed Petitioner be discharged with a General (Under Honorable Conditions) (GEN). Petitioner was so discharged on 26 April 1989. His final trait average for personal behavior was 2.8.

g. Petitioner contends he was discharged for a previously undiagnosed mental health condition. Petitioner further contended he reliably fulfilled all of his duties and schoolwork with no evidence of poor behavior or reliability issues; yet his performance evaluation negatively rated him at a 2.8 for reliability and personal behavior as a direct result of valid suicidal ideations. Petitioner also checked the "Other Mental Health" box on his application but did not provide supporting evidence of his claim.

CONCLUSION:

Upon careful review and consideration of all of the evidence of record, the Board determined that Petitioner's request warrants partial relief. In keeping with the letter and spirit of reference (b), the Board determined that it would be an injustice to label one's discharge as being for a diagnosed 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. 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 below recommended corrective action, the Board concluded insufficient evidence exists to support Petitioner's request for an upgrade in characterization of service. The Board carefully considered all potentially mitigating factors to determine whether the interests of justice warrant relief in Petitioner's case in accordance with reference (b). These included, but were not limited to, Petitioner's desire for a discharge upgrade and his previously discussed contentions. For purposes of clemency and equity consideration, the Board considered the totality of the Petitioner's application; which consisted of his DD Form 149, personal statement, excerpts from his military medical and service record, and personal notes he provided.

After thorough review, the Board concluded these potentially mitigating factors were insufficient to warrant relief. The Board determined Petitioner's assigned characterization of service remains appropriate. Specifically, the Board noted Petitioner's one evaluation assigned him conduct/military bearing marks below what is needed for an Honorable characterization.

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Although the Petitioner contends there is no evidence of poor behavior or reliability issues, his performance evaluation specially states he was assigned his 2.8 reliability and personal behavior as a direct result of his suicidal ideations. While the Board acknowledges that the assignment of lower trait behavior and reliability averages is not normally done in cases involving a disability condition, Petitioner was diagnosed with a personality disorder and his counseling indicated he was not meeting minimum command expectations due, in part, to increased sensitivity and ambivalence; behavior likely associated with his personality disorder vice a qualified disability condition. Therefore, absent substantiate evidence to the contrary, the Board determined the presumption of regularity applied in the assignment of Petitioner's behavior and personal reliability traits, and the further assignment of a GEN characterization of service based on those traits. Additionally, the Board also determined Petitioner's assigned reentry code remains appropriate in light of his unsuitability for further military service.

Therefore, even in light of reference (b) and reviewing the record holistically, the Board did not find evidence of an error or injustice that warrants granting Petitioner the relief he requested or granting the requested relief as a matter of clemency or equity.

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

RECOMMENDATION:

Petitioner be issued a new Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214), for the period ending 26 April 1989, reflecting that he was discharged with a narrative reason for separation of "Secretarial Authority," SPD code of "JFF," and separation authority of "MILPERSMAN 1910-164."

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

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 the reference, has been approved by the Board on behalf of the Secretary of the Navy.

1/22/2026

