



214), you were separated from the Navy, on 21 February 2001, with an “Uncharacterized (Entry Level Separation)” (ELS) characterization of service, your narrative reason for separation is “Fraudulent Entry Into Military Service (Other),” your reenlistment code is “RE-4,” and your separation code is “JDA;” which corresponds to fraudulent entry.

In your application to this Board, you express a desire for your discharge character of service be upgraded and contend that:

1. Your current character of service does not accurately reflect your service, conduct, or performance.
2. Your character of service was adversely affected by your untreated PTSD/mental health condition due to your mother’s death that developed during your service.
3. These issues contributed to your behavior and eventual discharge but were not properly recognized or addressed at the time by your superiors.
4. You did not receive adequate emotional or administrative support to properly process your hardship or request leave for family and bereavement matters.
5. The circumstances were beyond your control and significantly impaired your ability to function and fulfill your duties in the manner you had prior to the tragedy.
6. This error/injustice has negatively impacted your post-service life, to include employment opportunities, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits, and your reputation.

After careful review, the Board reached the following conclusions and denied your application for relief.

The Board initially concluded you were appropriately processed for administrative separation based on your fraudulent enlistment into the Navy. While the Board carefully considered your contention for mitigation, the Board noted you did not address the conduct that formed the basis for your administrative separation. Therefore, the Board determined the presumption of regularity applies to your administrative separation and no error exists with your record.

The Board also considered the totality of the circumstances to determine whether equitable relief was warranted in the interests of justice in accordance with the Wilkie Memo. In this regard, the Board considered, amongst other factors, your desire for an upgrade to your characterization of service, your contentions, your need for veterans’ benefits, the non-violent nature of your misconduct, your relative youth and immaturity at the time of your misconduct, the negative effect your discharge has had on your life, your rehabilitation efforts, your claimed mental health issues related to the passing of your mother, and the passage of time since your discharge.

The Board found that the mitigating factors were not nearly sufficient to justify any equitable relief. Specifically, the Board found that your assigned uncharacterized ELS remains

appropriate. First, the Board noted that service regulations direct the assignment of an uncharacterized entry-level separation for service members processed for separation, as you were, within their first 180 days of active duty. While there are exceptions to this policy, the Board found that none applied to you based on the circumstances of your separation. In reviewing the circumstances of your case, the Board was unable to discern any facts that were extraordinary or uniquely different from countless of other former service members who were discharged while in an ELS status. While the Board acknowledged your desire for a discharge upgrade to access veterans' benefits, it determined the Navy's interest in maintaining consistency in its personnel system outweigh those mitigation factors. Second, the Board was not persuaded by your contentions of a mental health condition associated with your mother's passing. Based on your record, you were discharged for fraudulently enlisting in the Navy rather than misconduct committed while on active duty. Therefore, the fact you may have developed a mental health condition as a result after you commenced active duty was deemed by the Board to be inapplicable to your pre-service conduct and not mitigating to your discharge.

Accordingly, given the totality of the circumstances, the Board determined your request does not merit relief.

You are entitled to have the Board reconsider its decision upon submission of new matters, which will require you to complete and submit a new DD Form 149. New matters are those not previously presented to or considered by the Board. In this regard, it is important to keep in mind that a presumption of regularity attaches to all official records. Consequently, when applying for a correction of an official naval record, the burden is on the applicant to demonstrate the existence of probable material error or injustice.

Sincerely,

3/20/2026

