



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

█
Docket No. 8271-25
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, 3 Sep 14 (Hagel Memo)
(c) USECDEF Memo, 25 Jul 18 (Wilkie Memo)

Encl: (1) DD Form 149 with attachments
(2) Case summary
(3) Subject's naval record (excerpts)
(4) Advisory Opinion dated 4 January 2026

1. Pursuant to the provisions of reference (a), Subject, hereinafter referred to as Petitioner, a former enlisted member of the Marine Corps, filed enclosure (1) with this Board requesting that his discharge be upgraded to Honorable. Enclosures (1) through (4) apply.

2. The Board, consisting of █, █, and █, reviewed Petitioner's allegations of error and injustice on 10 February 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, and applicable statutes, regulations, and policies, to include references (b) and (c). Additionally, the Board considered enclosure (4), the advisory opinion (AO) from a qualified mental health professional, which was considered favorable toward Petitioner.

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 enclosure (1) was not filed in a timely manner, the statute of limitation was waived in the interests of justice.

c. After a period of Honorable service in the Navy, Petitioner reenlisted after a break in service and commenced a period of active duty with the Marine Corps on 24 March 1997. On 4 September 1997, Petitioner received a psychiatric evaluation that determined he was suffering from a severe personality disorder that adversely affected his ability to function in the Marine

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Corps. He was diagnosed with an Adjustment Disorder with depressed mood, a Schizoid Personality Disorder, and recommended for administrative separation.

d. On 18 September 1987, he was counseled on being processed for administrative separation due to a Personality Disorder. Consequently, Petitioner was notified of pending administrative separation action by reason of convenience of the government due to a Personality Disorder. After electing to waive his rights, Petitioner's commanding officer (CO) forwarded his package to the separation authority (SA) recommending he be discharged with a General (Under Honorable Conditions) (GEN) characterization of service. The SA approved the CO's recommendation and Petitioner was so discharged on 23 October 1997.

e. In his application, Petitioner asserts that he incurred a mental health condition during military service due to his service while enlisted in the Navy and he is currently receiving service-connected disability from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). 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.

e. Based on Petitioner's assertion of having mental health issues, enclosure (4) was requested and reviewed. It stated in pertinent part:

There is evidence that the Petitioner was diagnosed with an Adjustment Disorder and Personality Disorder in service. An Adjustment Disorder varies from a primary mental health condition such that symptoms are expected to resolve once external stressors are removed. His personality disorder diagnosis was based on observed behaviors and performance during his period of service, the information he chose to disclose to the mental health clinician, and the psychological evaluation performed by the mental health clinician. A personality disorder diagnosis is pre-existing to military service, and indicates lifelong characterological traits unsuitable for military service, since they are not typically amenable to treatment within the operational requirements of Naval Service.

He submitted post-service evidence of diagnoses of PTSD, Alcohol Use Disorder, Cannabis Use Disorder, and Schizoaffective Disorder. Interestingly, his post-service diagnosis of Schizoaffective Disorder may be related to his in-service diagnosis of Schizoid Personality Disorder. Both diagnoses are dependent on psychotic and/or otherwise observed behaviors that present as bizarre and odd. It is possible that his in-service diagnosis of Schizoid Personality Disorder was in fact prodromal symptoms of Schizoaffective Disorder. He served a prior period of honorable service with the Navy, and it is possible that the decompensating symptoms of Schizoaffective Disorder only began to appear during his period of service with the Marine Corps.

The AO concluded, "it is my clinical opinion that there is sufficient evidence of diagnoses of Adjustment Disorder and Personality Disorder in service. There is sufficient evidence that his Schizoid Personality Disorder may have been diagnosed in error and in fact, Petitioner was exhibiting prodromal symptoms of Schizoaffective Disorder – a primary mental health condition."

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CONCLUSION:

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

The Board found no error in Petitioner's discharge due to his diagnosed Personality Disorder. While the Board acknowledged the AO's conclusion that Petitioner may have been suffering from a misdiagnosed mental health condition, i.e. schizoaffective disorder, it considered that he was also diagnosed with a personality disorder and that diagnosis for the basis of his administrative separation. Additionally, the Board found no injustice with Petitioner's administrative separation. Since Petitioner schizoaffective disorder existed prior to his entry into the Marine Corps, the Board determined he would have been ineligible for disability benefits. Therefore, the Board determined Petitioner was appropriately processed for his diagnosed personality disorder and his unsuitability for further military service.

However, the Board also determined that it would be an injustice to label one's discharge as being for a diagnosed character and behavior and or adjustment 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.

Further, the Board found no evidence to support Petitioner's assigned GEN characterization of service. There is no evidence Petitioner committed misconduct or performed poorly during his brief period of active duty in the Marine Corps. Therefore, the Board determined Petitioner's characterization of service is erroneous and needs to be changed to Honorable¹.

Notwithstanding the recommended corrective action below, the Board concluded that Petitioner's assigned reentry code remains appropriate in light of his unsuitability for further military service. Ultimately, the Board determined any injustice in Petitioner's record is adequately addressed by the recommended corrective action.

In view of the foregoing, the Board finds the existence of an injustice warranting the following corrective action.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Petitioner be issued a new Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214), for the period ending 23 October 1997, indicating 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 6214."

¹ The Board did not apply liberal consideration to Petitioner's mental health claims and did not base its decision to upgrade his characterization of service on the findings of the AO. Rather, the Board determined an error existed with Petitioner's assigned characterization of service based on the complete absence of evidence to support the assignment of a GEN characterization of service.

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That no further changes be made to the 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 reference (a), has been approved by the Board on behalf of the Secretary of the Navy.

2/22/2026

