



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF NAVAL RECORDS
701 S. COURTHOUSE ROAD, SUITE 1001
ARLINGTON, VA 22204-2490

[REDACTED]
Docket No. 8869-25

Ref: Signature Date

From: Chairman, Board for Correction of Naval Records

To: Secretary of the Navy

Subj: REVIEW OF NAVAL RECORD OF FORMER MEMBER [REDACTED],
USN, XXX-XX-[REDACTED]

Ref: (a) 10 U.S.C. §1552

(b) USD (P&R) Memo, "Updated Guidance on Correction of Military Records for Service Members Involuntary Separated for Refusal to Comply with Coronavirus Disease 2019 Vaccination Requirements," 1 April 2025

(c) ALNAV 062/21, subj: 2021-2022 Department of Navy Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccination Policy, dtg 302126Z AUG 21

(d) Executive Order 14184, Reinstating Service Members Discharged Under the Military's COVID-19 Vaccination Mandate, 27 January 2025

(e) SECNAVINST 5420.193, Board for Correction of Naval Records, 19 November 1997

(f) USD Memo "Guidance to Military Discharge Review Boards and Boards for Correction of Military / Naval Records Regarding Equity, Injustice, or Clemency Determinations, 25 Jul 18

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 an upgrade to her characterization of service, reason for separation, and reenlistment code. Petitioner is not requesting reinstatement into the service. Enclosures (1) and (2) apply.

2. The Board, consisting of [REDACTED], [REDACTED], and [REDACTED], reviewed Petitioner's allegations of error and injustice on 2 September 2025 and, pursuant to its regulations, determined the partial 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 Petitioner's naval service records, and applicable statutes, regulations, and policies to include reference (b) through (f).

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.

Subj: REVIEW OF NAVAL RECORD OF FORMER MEMBER [REDACTED],
USN, XXX-XX-[REDACTED]

b. Petitioner enlisted in the U.S. Navy and began a period of active duty on 7 July 2022.

c. On 20 September 2022, Petitioner was involuntarily discharged from the Navy for misconduct serious offense with an uncharacterized characterization of service. The serious offense in question was her refusal to comply with the former COVID-19 vaccination mandate of reference (c) in violation of Article 92, Uniform Code of Military Justice.

d. Petitioner contends her separation was initiated during medical week in boot camp after declining the COVID-19 vaccine due to her deeply held religious convictions.

e. For purposes of clemency and equity consideration, the Board considered the totality of Petitioner's application; which included her DD Form 149 and the evidence Petitioner provided in support of her application.

CONCLUSION:

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

According to reference (d), the COVID-19 vaccine mandate was an "unfair, overbroad, and completely unnecessary burden on our Service members" and the military "unjustly discharged those who refused the vaccine." Since there was no other basis for administrative separation apparent in Petitioner's naval record, the Board therefore found an injustice in that Petitioner was involuntarily separated from the Navy solely for refusing the former COVID-19 vaccination mandate.

Having found an injustice in that Petitioner was involuntarily separated from the Navy solely for refusing the former COVID-19 vaccination mandate, the Board also found an injustice in any and all adverse actions that followed from or contributed to that separation.

The Board determined the assigned uncharacterized characterization of service remains appropriate. Service regulations direct the assignment of an uncharacterized entry level separation when a service member is processed for separation within their first 180 days of active service. While there are exceptions in cases involving misconduct or extraordinary performance, the Board determined neither of these exceptions applied in her case.

RECOMMENDATION:

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

That Petitioner be issued a new Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214) indicating that, for the period ending 20 September 2022, discharged with a "Uncharacterized" characterization of service, narrative reason for separation of "Secretarial Authority," SPD code of "JFF," separation authority of "MILPERSMAN 1910-164," and reentry code of "RE-1."

Subj: REVIEW OF NAVAL RECORD OF FORMER MEMBER [REDACTED],
USN, XXX-XX-[REDACTED]

That Petitioner's naval record be reviewed and any adverse information pertaining to Petitioner's refusal to comply with the former COVID-19 vaccination mandate, including but not limited to any punitive actions, administrative separation documentation, and "Page 13" entries be removed.

That 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.

9/18/2025

