



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

██████████
Docket No. 3020-26
Ref: Signature Date

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

Subj: REVIEW OF NAVAL RECORD OF ██████████, USN,
XXX-XX-██████████

Ref: (a) 10 U.S.C. §1552
(b) DEPSECDEF Memo, subj: Actions to Address Potential Injustices within Military Records of Former Service Members Administratively Separated Based on Their Sexual Orientation, 3 January 2025
(c) USD (P&R) Memo, subj: Correction of Military Records Following Repeal of Section 654 of Title 10, United States Code, 20 September 2011
(d) USD (P&R) Memo, subj: Guidance to Military Discharge Review Boards and Boards for Correction of Military / Naval Records Regarding Equity, Injustice, or Clemency Determinations, 25 July 2018
(e) SECNAVINST 5420.193, Board for Correction of Naval Records, 19 November 1997

Encl: (1) ASN (M&RA) Memo, subj: Group Application Pursuant to 10 U.S.C. §1552(b) – Similarly Harmed Veterans Administratively Separated Based Solely upon their Sexual Orientation with less than a Fully Honorable Characterization of Service since 1 January 1980
(2) DD Form 149
(3) DD Form 214
(4) OPNAV 5527/1 Incident Complaint, 27 January 1997
(5) ██████████ CO Memo 1910 ██████████, subj: Notice of an Administrative Board Procedure Proposed Action, February 1997
(6) Petitioner Memo, subj: Statement of Awareness and Request for, or Waiver of, Privileges, 3 February 1997
(7) BUPERS Message, subj: Admin Disch ICO [Petitioner], dtg 271832Z MAR 97
(8) Naval Discharge Review Board Decisional Document, Docket Number ND99-00099/JM, 30 September 1999

1. In accordance with subsection (b) of reference (a) and the terms of the settlement agreement in the case of *Farrell, et. al. v. U.S. Department of Defense, et. al.*, as implemented by reference (b), the Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Manpower and Reserve Affairs) (ASN (M&RA)) filed enclosure (1) with the Board for Correction of Naval Records, hereinafter referred to as the Board, on behalf of a group of similarly harmed Sailors and Marines whose DD Form 214 reflects that they were discharged due to their sexual orientation with less than a fully honorable characterization of service. The Subject, hereinafter referred to as Petitioner, filed enclosure (2) with the Board, thus opting in to this group application review. A preliminary review of enclosure (3) revealed that Petitioner met the criteria for inclusion in this group application.

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2. A three-member panel of the Board, meeting in executive session, conducted an individualized review of the Subject's naval record on 11 March 2026, and found sufficient evidence of an injustice warranting the corrective action recommended in paragraph 5 below. Documentary material considered by the Board included the enclosures; relevant portions of the Subject's naval record; and applicable statutes, regulations, and policies, to include references (c) and (d).

3. Factual Background. Following are the relevant facts of Petitioner's case based upon review of his naval record:

a. Petitioner enlisted in the U.S. Navy and began a period of active duty on 22 September 1993. See enclosure (3).

b. On 27 January 1997, Petitioner provided a statement admitting to homosexual conduct. See enclosure (4).

c. By memorandum dated February 1997, Petitioner was formally notified that he was being considered for administrative discharge by reason of homosexual conduct and homosexual acts. See enclosure (5).

d. On 3 February 1997, Petitioner acknowledged the notification referenced in paragraph 3c above and waived his procedural right to consult with counsel and to have his case heard before an administrative discharge board. See enclosure (6).

e. On 27 March 1997, the separation authority directed that the Petitioner be discharged from the Navy with a characterization of service of "Type Warranted by Service Record by reason of homosexual conduct acts. See enclosure (7).

f. On 16 April 1997, Petitioner was discharged from the Navy with an other than honorable (OTH) characterization of service due to homosexual conduct acts. On 27 September 1999, the Naval Discharge Review Board (NDRB) granted Petitioner partial relief by upgrading his characterization of service to general (under honorable conditions) (GEN). The NDRB report reflects that Petitioner's original discharge characterization of service was under other than honorable (OTH) conditions on 16 April 1997. See enclosure (8).

4. Conclusions.

a. In accordance with reference (c), the Board should normally grant requests to change the narrative reason for a discharge, requests to re-characterize the discharge to honorable, and/or requests to change the reentry code to an immediately-eligible-to-reenter category when both of the following conditions are met: (1) the original discharge was based solely on the former "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" (DADT) or similar policy in place prior to enactment of DADT, and (2) there were no aggravating factors in the record, such as misconduct. The record contains no indication of misconduct or aggravating factors that would warrant administrative processing. Rather, the record indicates the separation was solely based on Petitioner's sexuality. Accordingly, the Board found Petitioner's case falls within the general guidance of reference (c).

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b. In accordance with reference (d), the Board considered, amongst other factors, that homosexuality is now permitted within the military and that a current Service member under the same circumstances today would therefore reasonably expect to receive a more favorable outcome than Petitioner received; that there was no other in-service misconduct in Petitioner's naval record; that he was solely discharged due to his sexuality; and the passage of time since Petitioner's discharge. Based on these factors, the Board determined that equitable relief is warranted in the interests of justice.

c. The Board also found an injustice in the fact that the narrative reason for separation reflected on Petitioner's DD Form 214 includes a reference to his sexual orientation. Due to his narrative reason for separation, Petitioner must disclose personal information regarding his sexual orientation and/or previous sexual activity whenever he has cause to prove his military service for whatever reason. Other Service members are not required to reveal such personal information when providing evidence of their former military service. This constitutes an unreasonable burden and violation of Petitioner's privacy interests.

5. Recommendation. Based upon the conclusions in paragraph 4 above, the Board recommends the following corrective action be taken on Petitioner's naval record:

a. That Petitioner be issued a new DD Form 214 reflecting that his service ending on 16 April 1997 was characterized as "Honorable"; that his narrative reason for separation was "Secretarial Authority"; that his separation authority was "MILPERSMAN 3630900"; that his separation code was "JFF"; and that his reentry code was "RE-1."

b. That Petitioner be issued an Honorable Discharge Certificate.

c. That a copy of this record of proceedings be filed in Petitioner's naval record.

d. That no further corrective action be taken on Petitioner's naval record.

6. 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 titled matter. I have assured compliance with the provisions of reference (e).

7. Pursuant to the delegation of authority set out in reference (e), the corrective action described above has been approved by the Board on behalf of the Secretary of the Navy in accordance with reference (a).

3/31/2026

