



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF NAVAL RECORDS  
2 NAVY ANNEX  
WASHINGTON DC 20370-5100

ELP  
Docket No. 151-01  
8 June 2001

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

This is in reference to your application for correction of your naval record pursuant to the provisions of Title 10, United States Code, Section 1552.

A three-member panel for the Board for Correction of Navy Records, sitting in executive session, considered your application on 6 June 2001. Your allegations of error and injustice were reviewed in accordance with administrative regulations and procedures applicable to the proceedings of this Board. Documentary material considered by the Board consisted of your application, together with all material submitted in support thereof, your naval record and applicable statutes, regulations and policies.

After careful and conscientious consideration of the entire record, the Board found that the evidence submitted was insufficient to establish the existence of probable material error or injustice.

You enlisted in the Navy on 22 June 1989 for four years at age 18. The record reflects that you served without incident until 6 December 1989 when you were seen by the ship's medical department due to dissatisfaction with your work situation and the Navy. You claimed that you "could not take it anymore" and had been in an unauthorized absence status from 4-6 December 1989. The medical officer's impression was "situational maladjustment" and recommended that you continue counseling with the chaplain and get involved in extracurricular activities.

On 14 December 1989, you were seen again by the ship's medical department and you stated "I just hate the Navy" and stated that you had been working 18-19 hours days. You complained of an inability to sleep, a loss of appetite, and feelings of despondency. You disclosed that on the previous night, you walked from the base to a mall with a kitchen knife and

contemplated suicide. You claimed that afterwards you asked to be seen by a psychiatrist, but were informed you needed a referral.

On the same day, you were referred to a naval hospital for a psychiatric evaluation. It was noted in the consultation summary that after being counseled and told by the chaplain that you would not be discharged, you began to entertain thoughts of suicide or hurting yourself. You were diagnosed with an unspecified personality disorder with borderline and immature traits. Although you were not suicidal, you were considered a potential risk for harm to yourself and others if retained. Expeditious separation was recommended.

On 19 January 1990 you were notified that administrative separation processing was being initiated by reason of convenience of the government due to the diagnosed personality disorder. You were advised of your procedural rights and that the least favorable characterization of service you could receive would be a general discharge. You did not object to the discharge. Thereafter, the discharge authority directed a general discharge by reason of personality disorder. However, on 23 January 1990, you were honorably discharged by reason of "Other Physical/Mental Conditions - Personality Disorder" and assigned an RE-4 reenlistment code.

Regulations authorize the assignment of an RE-4 reenlistment code to individuals who are discharged by reason of a diagnosed personality disorder. The Board noted your contentions that you made a mistake 11 years ago, but you were only 18 years old and did not belong in the Navy. The Board noted that any suicidal ideations, gestures, or threats to commit suicide, whether manipulative in nature or not, are viewed with concern by the Navy. You have provided no medical evidence refuting the Navy's diagnosis of a personality disorder. Since individuals with suicidal ideation pose a potential risk for harm to themselves and others if retained, the Board concluded the assigned reenlistment code was proper and no change is warranted. The Board has no authority to waive your reenlistment code. The authority for such a waiver rests with the branch of service in which you desire to enlist.

Accordingly, your application has been denied. The names and votes of the members of the panel will be furnished upon request.

It is regretted that the circumstances of your case are such that favorable action cannot be taken. You are entitled to have the Board reconsider its decision upon submission of new and material evidence or other matter not previously 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,

W. DEAN PFEIFFER  
Executive Director