



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

ELP
Docket No. 963-01
14 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 12 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 21 September 1960 for four years at age 18. The record reflects that you reported to duty on board the submarine tender, the USS PROTEUS, homeported in Holy Loch, Scotland. You were advanced to MM3 (E-4) on 16 November 1961. Personnel serving on board PROTEUS were authorized to wear the Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon for the period 3 March 1961 to 23 February 1963. Thereafter, the ship returned to Charleston, SC and you were advanced to MM2 (E-5) in June 1964. You were honorably released from active duty and transferred to the Navy Reserve on 18 September 1964. You received an honorable discharge upon fulfillment of your military obligation on 20 September 1966.

The records made available for the Board's review contain no evidence that you ever served in Vietnam or that you were treated by a medical officer for wounds received in combat, or that you were recommended for the Purple Heart and Silver Star Medals.

The Board considered your contention to the effect that you served with a special unit of the Marine Corps in the Mekong Delta and on 8 January 1964 you were treated at a field unit for fragment wounds received to your lower right leg. You claim that when you returned to the PROTEUS you discovered that the mission was classified and that you were to receive the Purple Heart and the Silver Star. However, this information was never documented in your records. You further claim you were threatened with imprisonment if you talked about any of the operations in which you were involved. In order to justify correction to a military record, you must show to the satisfaction of the Board, or it must otherwise satisfactorily appear that your contentions are true and supported by corroborating evidence. Such evidence would include statements from individuals who served with you on the PROTEUS and were also involved in these special operations, and who witnessed your being wounded in action. You have provided no such evidence or explanation as to why an MM2 would be assigned to a special Marine Corps unit when his duty station was in Charleston. The Board concluded there is no basis for granting your request. 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