



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

TJR  
Docket No: 6606-01  
12 March 2002

[REDACTED]

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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 of the Board for Correction of Naval Records, sitting in executive session, considered your application on 5 March 2002. 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 the evidence submitted was insufficient to establish the existence of probable material error or injustice.

The Board found you enlisted in the Marine Corps on 3 September 1971 at the age of 20. Your record reflects that on 4 October 1972 you were convicted by special court-martial (SPCM) of a 139 day period of unauthorized absence (UA) and were sentenced to hard labor and restriction for 60 days, a \$160 forfeiture of pay, and reduction to paygrade E-1.

On 19 March 1973 you received nonjudicial punishment (NJP) for failure to go to your appointed place of duty and were awarded restriction for 14 days.

The record further reflects that on 14 June 1973 you submitted a written request for an undesirable discharge in order to avoid trial by court-martial for the two periods of UA totalling 124 days. Your record shows that prior to submitting this request, you conferred with a qualified military lawyer at which time you were advised of your rights and warned of the probable adverse consequences of accepting such a discharge. Subsequently, your request for discharge was granted and your commanding officer was

directed to issue you an undesirable discharge. As a result of this action, you were spared the stigma of a court-martial conviction and the potential penalties of a punitive discharge and confinement at hard labor. On 5 July 1973 you were issued an undesirable discharge.

The Board, in its review of your entire record and application, carefully considered all mitigating factors, such as your youth and immaturity. However, the Board found the evidence and materials submitted were not sufficient to warrant recharacterization of your discharge given your frequent periods of UA, and the lengthy periods of UA which resulted in your request for discharge to avoid trial. The Board believed that considerable clemency was extended to you when your request for discharge to avoid trial by court-martial was approved since, by this action, you escaped the possibility of confinement at hard labor and a punitive discharge. Further, the Board concluded that you received the benefit of your bargain with the Marine Corps when your request for discharge was granted and you should not be permitted to change it now. 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