



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

ELP  
Docket No. 430-02  
10 May 2002

[REDACTED]

[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 of the Board for Correction of Navy Records, sitting in executive session, considered your application on 8 May 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 that the evidence submitted was insufficient to establish the existence of probable material error or injustice.

The Board found that you enlisted in the Navy on 18 March 1997 for four years at age 21. The record reflects that on 22 April 1997 you were referred to the recruit evaluation unit by medical personnel after you stabbed your hand with a pen so severely that it required stitches. You claimed recurrent suicidal ideation since arriving at recruit training and stabbed yourself because "Nobody would listen to me...now they are listening." You also reported an inability to adapt to the routine rigors of basic training, as evidenced by uncontrollable crying, decreased sleep and appetite, and thoughts of going on unauthorized absence. The examining psychologist opined that this was not a normal response to the stresses of being at recruit training. Your suicidal ideation was deemed a manipulative gesture for the purpose of obtaining a discharge. However, the psychologist believed that if retained there was a risk of self-harm. You were diagnosed as having an adjustment disorder with depressed mood and an entry level separation was recommended.

On 28 April 1997 you were notified that administrative separation was being initiated by reason of convenience of the government as evidenced by an adjustment disorder. You were advised of your procedural rights, declined to consult with legal counsel or submit a statement in your own behalf, and waived the right to have your case reviewed by the general court-martial convening authority. Thereafter, the discharge authority directed an uncharacterized entry level separation. You were so discharged on 2 May 1997 by reason of erroneous entry and assigned an RE-4 reenlistment code.

Regulations authorize the assignment of an RE-4 reenlistment code to individuals separated by reason of erroneous entry. You provide neither probative evidence nor a convincing argument in support of your application. The Navy views individuals who express suicidal ideation, whether as a manipulative gesture or not, with serious concern. Assignment of an RE-4 reenlistment code to such individuals is justified since they pose a risk to harm themselves and others if retained. The Board concluded that the reenlistment code was proper and no change is warranted. 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