



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

JRE  
Docket No: 4070-01  
26 February 2002



Dear [REDACTED]

This is in reference to your application for correction of your naval record pursuant to the provisions of title 10 of the 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 25 January 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 underwent a pre-enlistment physical examination on 11 December 1996, and completed a Statement of Medical History in which you denied having any significant history of medical evaluation or treatment. You enlisted in the Navy on 13 January 1997, and were referred to the Recruit Evaluation Unit on 29 January 1997 because of complaints of anxiety attacks. You disclosed a history of depression and self-mutilation at age 19. You complained of recurrent anxiety attacks, being claustrophobic, an inability to tolerate being around a large group of people, and increased irritability due to your exposure to large groups. Your attacks included symptoms of increased heart rate, sweating, trembling, shortness of breath, feelings of being trapped, and fear of losing control. You were given a diagnosis of panic disorder with agoraphobia, and recommended for expeditious separation from the Navy. You were considered to be a continuing danger to yourself and others should separation action not be initiated. You were discharged by reason of erroneous entry on 6 February 1997 with an entry level separation, having completed 24 days of service.

Your personal statement and the report of the psychologist who evaluated you following your discharge were carefully evaluated, and found insufficient to warrant any corrective action in your case. In this regard, it noted that your post-service denial of experiencing symptoms of a panic disorder at any time was not accepted by the Board, as it controverted by evidence contained in your military record. The fact that your psychologist could not substantiate a diagnosis of a panic disorder is not significant, given your current denial of symptoms of such a disorder. In addition, the Board did not accept your contention to the effect that the emotional difficulties you experienced during your brief period of service should be attributed to your reaction to the separation from your girlfriend rather than claustrophobia. It was clear to the Board that you were unsuitable for service, and that your discharge was warranted.

In view of the foregoing, 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