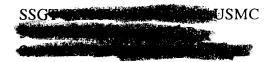


DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

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

BJG

Docket No: 5813-01 8 February 2002





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 7 February 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. In addition, the Board considered the report of the Headquarters Marine Corps Performance Evaluation Review Board (PERB), dated 20 July 2001 with enclosure, and a memorandum for the record dated 1 February 2002, copies of which are attached. They also considered your rebuttal letter dated 17 August 2001 with enclosures.

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. In this connection, the Board substantially concurred with the comments contained in the report of the PERB. They found that whatever advice you were given concerning the need for a source document to cancel your entitlement to basic allowance for housing (BAH) did not excuse you from an obligation to fully and accurately inform your reporting senior or current inspector-instructor first sergeant of the problem concerning your entitlement to BAH. They did not agree with your contention that the contested fitness report should be removed because you were not provided a complete copy of the investigation concerning your receipt of overpayment of BAH. In view of the above, 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

Enclosures

1610 MMER/PERB

7 a JUL 2001

MEMORANDUM FOR THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF NAVAL RECORDS

Subj: MARINE CORPS PERFORMANCE EVALUATION REVIEW BOARD (PERB)
ADVISORY OPINION ON BCNR APPLICATION IN THE CASE OF STAFF
SERGEANT USMC

Ref: (a) SSgt D Form 149 of 13 Apr 01

(b) MCO P1610.7E w/Ch 1

Encl: (1) Excerpt from Command Investigation Ltr 5800 AI-I of 14 Sep 99)

- 1. Per MCO 1610.11C, the Performance Evaluation Review Board, with three members present, met on 18 July 2001 to consider Staff Sergeant petition contained in reference (a). Removal of the fitness report for the period 990713 to 991231 (AN) was requested. Reference (b) is the performance evaluation directive governing submission of the report.
- 2. The petitioner contends the Reporting Senior's justification for adverse ratings are not accurate statements. Additionally, and contrary to the Reporting Senior's comments, the petitioner states he accepted personal responsibility to correct an overpayment of entitlements and that he did, in fact, seek assistance in resolving this issue prior to being confronted by the Reporting Senior. To support his appeal, the petitioner furnishes several items pertaining to his separation, pending divorce, and other matters relating to his personal affairs.
- 3. In its proceedings, the PERB concluded that the report is both administratively correct and procedurally complete as written and filed. The following is offered as relevant:
- a. The adversity of the challenged fitness report clearly lies in the petitioner receiving almost three years of unentitled Basic Allowance for Quarters (BAQ) at the rate for married Marines. The report was appropriately referred to the petitioner for an opportunity to submit a statement of rebuttal (which he did). In the final analysis, however, the Reviewing and Adverse Sighting Officers both concurred in the Reporting Senior's overall evaluation.

Subj: MARINE CORPS PERFORMANCE EVALUATION REVIEW BOARD (PERB)
ADVISORY OPINION ON BCNR APPLICATION IN THE CASE OF STAFF
SERGEANT USMC

- b. The petitioner's assessment as to the adversity not being accurately reported is considered without merit. All officers concerned in the performance evaluation cycle reviewed the documents submitted by the petitioner and his lawyer and had the results of the command investigation. As a matter of information, this Board obtained a copy of the pertinent portion of the command investigation (minus the 35 enclosures). See enclosure (1). We must conclude, as did the reporting officials, that on many occasions the petitioner knowingly falsified his marital status. For this, he was correctly held accountable, both monetarily and via the performance evaluation system.
- c. Contrary to the petitioner's argument, the Board does not view the report as being used in lieu of disciplinary action. Rather, it records factual information impacting on the petitioner's overall character and potential. Simply stated, the absence of criminal intent does not excuse poor judgment.
- 4. The Board's opinion, based on deliberation and secret ballot vote, is that the contested fitness report should remain a part of Staff Sergeant of fficial military record.
- 5. The case is forwarded for final action.

Chairperson, Performance
Evaluation Review Board
Personnel Management Division
Manpower and Reserve Affairs
Department
By direction of the Commandant
of the Marine Corps



UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

2ND BATTALION, 24TH MARINES TH MAKINE DIVISION, FMP POSEPH J. MCCARTHY MARINE CORPS TRAINING CENTER 2034 WEST FOSTER AVENUE CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60825-4130

> ON REPLY REPER TO 5800 AI-I 14 Sept 99

From: Captair To:

Subj: COMMAND INVESTIGATION INTO THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING UNAUTHORIZED ENTITLEMENTS PAID TO STAFF SERGEAN

Ref:

- (a) JAGINST 5800.7C w/CH 1.2 (JAGMAN)
- (b) MCO P5800 16 (LEGADMINMAN)
- (c) MCO P1751.3E
- (d) MCO P1080,40A
- (e) DODPM
- (f) Manual for Courts-Martial United States (1998 Edition)

(1) Confirmation of Written Order to Conduct Investigation Encl:

- (2) Statement of G M. USMC dtd 990907
- (3) Statement of 1stS , USMC ret. dtd 990901
- (4) Statement of IUSMC dtd 990818
- (5) Statement of Capt T ers, USMC dtd 990825 (6) Statement of C
- USMC dtd 990827 (7) Summary of Phoncon wit
- 29 Palms Base Housing Office (8) Attorney
- d 990825 (9) Attorney I
- ttd 99083 j (10) NAVMC 118(3) Chronological Record of Sa
- (11) NAVMC 10922 Dependency Application of Se
- (12) NAVMC 10922 Dependency Application of id 940118 **Ed 990**819
- (13) Record of Emergency Data Certification of h dtd 990224
- (14) Unit Diary Transmittal Letter 00051-1999 dtd 990817
- (15) Annual Audit Certification of Sep
- (16) Annual Audit Certification of S 0429
- (17) SJA, MCAGCC letter dtd 950816
- (18)Court appointed Curator, letter to Consular Office dtd 950504 (19) St
- Attorney representing etter dtd 950920
- letter to SSgt ar did 950925
- eletter to SSgt St 970220 (22)etter to SS
- ed 980722
- (23) SSgt to Afforney General, Malta dtd 990713
- (24) SSgt ! Consular Office dtd 990827
- (25) Attorney General, letter to
- (26) Chapter 8 of LEGADMINMAN Dependent Support and Paternity
- (27) Excerpt of DoD Financial Management Regulation, pages 220-221
- (28) Excerpt of DoD Financial Management Regulation, pages 223-225
- (29) Excerpt of DoD Financial Management Regulation, pages 251-253
- (30) DD Form 1561 Statement to Substantiate Payment of Family Separation Allowance(FSA)

- (31) Statement repared and presented by dtd 990902
- (32) Summary of Entitlements paid to 940707 to 990815
- (33) LES com 940114 to 990815
- (34) Statement Statement (34) ISMC dtd 990915
- (35) Excerpt of MCO P1751.3E Basic Allowance for Quarters manual, pages (1-3)-(1-5)

Preliminary Statement

- 1. Per references (a) through (f) and as directed by enclosure (1), an investigation was conducted into the circumstances surrounding unauthorized entitlements paid to 7 July 1994 to 15 August 1999.
- 2. During the course of this investigation the MFR SJA office, was consulted on a regular basis. Guidance was provided for administrative and procedural functions, source documentation, and possible interview requirements.
- 3. Difficulties experienced in the conduct of this investigation are outlined as follows:
- a. Due to the long time period of the payment of the unauthorized entitlements, pertinent personnel who may have knowledge of the circumstances could not be identified and interviewed. Additionally, most certification and application documentation prior leading into I-I Staff, Des Moines, IA, could not be located. Specifically, the DD form 1561's used to certify authorization to make payment of FSA entitlements the located by this investigation, as they are used by local commands for source documentation and maintained only two years.
- b. Due to the distances between information sources and the investigating officer, all information was collect through phone conversations, fax, e-mail, and mail. This led to considerable delays and confusion waiting for documentation to arrive and redirecting questions. A copy of the official Annulment Decree was not able to be obtained within the time frames of this investigation. A request was made for assistance to obtain a copy through MSG Bn, Legal.

 MSG Bn Legal, confirmed that a copy could be acquired, but there would be a cost of \$100.00. He further confirmed that a copy could be recently been given a copy, at which time the request for assistance was canceled.
- c. Due the conducted to provide further statements through the cost, and interview could not be conducted to answer many of the questions about actions taken prior to sing to I-I Staff, Des Moines, IA.
- d. Despite numerous requests, a statement was not provided by
 former I-I 1stSgt. He stated that he would provide a statement before the preparation of the preparation.

 That statement has been used for this investigation.

Findings of Fact

1. That Staff Section Embassy, Valletta, Malta. [Enclosure (10)]

- That any Marine who obtains BAH or other allowances through fraudulent means is subject to criminal prosecution. [Enclosure (26)]
- 43. That a Marine is not considered "a member with dependents" for Family Separation Allowance entitlements when the sole dependent is a spouse legally separated. [Enclosure (29)]
- That Staff Serge Edit receive Family Separation Allowance entitlements while legally separated from his wife. [Enclosures (32) and (33)]
- 45. That a Marine must sign a DD 1561 form Statement to Substantiate Payment of Family Separation Allowance in which they certify that they are not legally separated and their dependent's address prior to being paid FSA, [Enclosures (29) and (30)]
- 46. That Staff Sergeants would have had to sign a DD 1561 form each time that he was paid FSA. [Enclosures (29) and (30)]
- That from 7 July 1994 to 25 April 1997, while stationed at 29 Palms, CA, Staff Sergeant ceived \$4,153.80 in unauthorized BAQ entitlements.

 [Enclosures (32) and (33)]
- That from 7 July 1994 to 25 April 1997, while stationed at 29 Palms, CA, it could not be confirmed that Staff Serger command had knowledge of his separation and authorized him to continue to reside off base, which without, the entire amount of \$14,813.70 paid to him in BAQ entitlements was unauthorized. [Enclosures (32) and (33)]
- That from 9 December 1994 to 7 April 1995, while attached TAD to MAGTF 1-95 Emb USS Belleau Wood, Staff Serger Series (32) and (33)]
- That from 18 March 1996 to 23 July 1996, while attached TAD to SMAGTF CARAT-96, Staff Sergean sceived \$512.50 in unauthorized FSA-T Type II entitlements. [Enclosures (32) and (33)]
- 51. That Staff Serge. Sported to MCSFTC, Chesapeake, VA on 26 April 1997 for TEMINS. [Enclosure (10)]
- That from 26 April 1997 to 25 June 1997, while assigned to MCSFTC, Chesapeake, VA for TEMINS, Staff Sergeant (Control of the Control of the C
- That Staff Sergea Serge
- That from 26 April 1997 to 24 February 1998, while assigned to MCSFTC and MCSF Det, Souda Bay, Crete, Greece, Staff Serge and Teceived \$3,598.86 in unauthorized BAQ entitlements. [Enclosures (32) and (33)]

- That from 26 June 1. / to 24 February 1998, while assigned to MCSF Det, Souda Bay, Create, Greece, Staff Sergeat L. received the following unauthorized FSA entitlements: \$292.08 in FSH, \$2,480.04 in FSA-I Type I, and \$530.00 in FSA-R Type II. [Enclosures (32) and (33)]
- That Staff Sergeans ported to Inspector-Instructor Staff, Des Moines, IA on 23 March 1998 for duty. [Enclosure (10)]
- That shortly after checking in to I-I Staff, Des Moines, IA, identify that he was receiving unauthorized BAQ entitlements to the former Inspector-Instructor First Sergeant, First Sergeant Hamiltonian Inspector-Instructor Administrative Chief, Gunnery Sergeant Enclosures (2), (3), (4), and (31)]
- That Staff Sergear understand that he would have to repay all unauthorized entitlements he was paid. [Enclosure (2)]
- That shortly after checking in to I-I Staff, Des Moines, IA, Staff Sergea.

 I attempt to verbally drop ABIGAII om his NAVMC 10922

 Dependency Application inorder to change his dependent status because he believed that the annulment of his marriage was complete. [Enclosures (2), (4), and (31)]
- That shortly after checking in to I-I Staff, Des Moines, IA, Staff des Status could not be changed without an official source document. [Enclosures (2), (3), (4), and (31)]
- 61. That a NAVMC 10922 Dependency Application, to drop a dependent or change a member's dependent status, can not be prepared without an official source document. [Enclosure (35)]
- That Staff Serge documentation to correct his dependency status. [Enclosure (3)]
- 63. That on 5 July 1998, Staff Serge Sught through his lawyer, obtain official documentation to confirm his annulment. [Enclosure (22)]
- 64. That on 5 July 1998, Staff Sergence Enclosure (22)]
- 65. That on 21 October 1998, Staff St. John was false. [Enclosures (4), (15), and (31)]
- 66. That on 21 October 1998, Gunnery Sergent Letted Staff Sergent his dependency status certification portion of the annual audit because his dependency status had not legally changed. [Enclosures (2), (4), and (31)]
- 67. That on 21 October 1998, Staff Semiliar to the state of the gly certified his dependent's location as 29 Palms, CA even though he knew the information was false. [Enclosure (4), (15), and (31)]

- 68. That Gunge his dependency location. [Enclosure (2)]
- 69. That on 29 April 1999, Stafff annual audit even though he know the information was talse. [Enclosures (4) and (16)]
- 70. That Staff Serge required to sign his LES prepared on 8 October 1994 to certify his current dependent status and annual audit or his BAQ entitlements would have been reduced from the "with dependent" to the "without" rate. [Enclosures (26), (27), (28), and (33)]
- 71. That Staff Sergeant was required to sign his LES prepared on 6 November 1995 to certify his current dependent status and annual audit or his BAQ entitlements would have been reduced from the "with dependent" to the "without" rate. [Enclosures (26), (27), (28), and (33)]
- 72. That Staff Serge The Table 1996 to certify his current dependent status and annual audit or his BAQ entitlements would have been reduced from the "with dependent" to the "without" rate.

 [Enclosures (26), (27), (28), and (33)]
- 73. That Staff Serge was required to sign his LES prepared on 7 November 1997 to certify his current dependent status and annual audit or his BAQ entitlements would have been reduced from the "with dependent" to the "without" rate.

 [Enclosures (26), (27), (28), and (33)]
- 74. That if Staff Sergean and addit or dependent status, his BAH at the "with dependent" rate should have been changed to the "without" rate. [Enclosures (26) and (27)]
- 75. That Staff Sergeat rate after falsely certifying his dependent's location. [Enclosures (15), (16), (32), and (33)]
- 76. That Staff Sergeant States are supported to BAQ/BAH because he did not properly certify his dependent's whereabouts or explain her absence. [Enclosure (27)]
- 77. That on 13 July 1999 Grand granting the annulment of his marriage from the court order granting the annulment of his marriage from the court may be desired as the court order granting the annulment of his marriage from the court may be desired as the court order granting the annulment of his marriage from the court order granting the annulment of his marriage from the court order granting the annulment of his marriage from the court order granting the annulment of his marriage from the court order granting the annulment of his marriage from the court order granting the annulment of his marriage from the court order granting the annulment of his marriage from the court order granting the annulment of his marriage from the court order granting the annulment of his marriage from the court order granting the annulment of his marriage from the court order granting the annulment of his marriage from the court order granting the court order granting the court of the court order granting the court of the court order granting the court of the court of the court of the court order granting the court of the court of the court of the court order granting the court of the court
- 78. That Staff Sergean General dated 28 July 1999 that a judgment in the annulment proceedings regarding his marriage to ABIGAIL S. Leading to ABIGAIL S.
- 79. That Inspector-Instructor First Sergeant, First Serge Malta's Attorney General notification of judgment in the annulment proceedings on 15 August 1999, causing him to further investigate the situation which resulted in the discovery of unauthorized entitlements paid to Staff Sergeant (Enclosures (2), (4), and (5)]

- That on 17 August 9, Staff Sergea was read his rights by First Sergea informed that he was suspected of violating certain articles of the Uniform Code of Military Justice. [Enclosures (4) and (6)]
- 81. That on 17 August 1999, Staff Serger question, which is summarized in the First Sergeant's statement. [Enclosures (4) and (6)]
- That on 17 August 1999, Staff Sergean Staff Sergean Entacted attorney

 Lieutenant Colonel in the USMCR, for assistance in preparing a statement.

 [Enclosures (4), (6), and (8)]
- 83. That Staff Sergeam. Statement through To the last 1 en greed to assist him with this matter at no cost. [Enclosures (6), (8), (9), and (31)]
- 84. The timer I-I, Des Moines, IA, believed, and stated that it was generally known within the command, that Staff Serge divorced and his actions and conversations about his knew girlfriend supported this perception.

 [Enclosures (6) and (34)]
- 85. That First Serge and so as not aware that Staff Sergeant ST was ever married or that he was collecting BAH at the "with dependent" rate. [Enclosures (4) and (5)]
- 86. That Captain Inspector-Instructor, Des Moines, IA, was not aware that Staff Sergea was ever married or that he was collecting BAH at the "with dependent" rate. [Enclosures (4), (5), and (6)]
- 87. That Staff Sergean during his initial interview that he was single and did not identify that he was still in the middle of ongoing annulment proceedings with his wife. [Enclosures (4) and (5)]
- 88. That Staff Sergea (and planning to get married to this woman in September 1999. [Enclosures (4), (5), and (34)]
- 89. That Staff Serge had to obtain official source documentation in order to drop ABICAR SAR had before he could add a new wife to that form. [Enclosure (35)]
- 90. That Staff Service deceived verbal confirmation through a phone conversation between himself at 1 Plant the marriage between them has been annulled. [Enclosure (4)]
- 91. That dependent allowances for Staff Sergential Were stopped on 17 August 1999. [Enclosure (14)]

- That Staff Sergeant AMMC 10922 Dependency Application on 19 August 1999
 [Enclosure (12)]
- 73. That on 27 August 1999, Staff Sergeant ST Company Submitted a request and a cashiers check for \$100.06 assurar Officer, American Embass obtain an official copy of judgment in the annulment of his marriage.

 [15] That on 27 August 1999, Staff Sergeant ST Company Submitted a request and a cashiers check for \$100.06 assurar Officer, American Embass obtain an official copy of judgment in the annulment of his marriage.

Opinions

- 1. That from 7 July to the present, Staff Serge housing. [FF (4), (5), and (8)]
- 2. That Staff Sergea Continued to live at 73463 Didsbury Road, 29 Palms, CA 92277 after his wife the palms of the palms of
- 3. The did in fact return the large state of the la
- 4. That Staff Ser was considered legally separated when July 1994.

 [FF (13), (14), (15), (16) and (17)]
- That Staff Sergean did not take appropriate and timely measures to identify and correct payment of unauthorized entitlement.

 [FF (17), (46), (62), (63), (65), (67), (69), (70), (71), (72), (73), and (77)]
- 6. That Staff Sergea and ad sufficient opportunity to correct the situation and stop unauthorized entitlements before changing his dependent status. [FF (67), (69), (70), (71), (72), (73), (74), and (76)]
- 7. That Connery Gerge d not properly advise Staff Stage Sactions to be taken to reduce entitlements when certifying his annual audit on 21 Gerober 1998. [FF (66), (68), (74) and (76)]
- 8. That Gunnery Secretarian First Serger not take adequate measures to correct the situation when it was presented to them.
 [FF (57), (59), (60), (62) and (66)]
- 9. That Staff Sergett. Sk advantage of the incorrect guidance given by Gunnery Sergett. Scottinue receiving unauthorized entitlements. [FF (57), (60), (62), (63), (65), (66), (67), and (69)]
- That because Staff and the sta

- 11. That Staff Sergeant entitlements and did not save that money even though he knew that he would be obligated to repay it. [FF (57) and (58)]
- 12. That Staff Sergeant did not provide any financial support to er their separation as required by the referenced orders and regulations. [FF (24), (37), (38), and (39)]
- 13. That Staff Sergeant (24), (29), (30), (31), (32), (33), (34), (35), (36), (37), and (38)]
- That Staff Serce egan an honest effort to obtain official documentation of his annulment morder

 Dependency Application so that he could get remarried in September, 1999 and add his new wife to his Dependency Application. [FF (77), (84), (88), (89), (92), and (93)]
- That Staff Sergeant 1994 to 1999 that were false inorder to continue to receive "with dependent" rate entitlements. [FF (12), (47), (48), (54), (65), (66), (67), (69), (70), (71), (72), (73), (74), and (75)]
- That Staff Sergential Inowingly accepted \$12,289.50 in unauthorized BAQ/BAH entitlements. [FF (47), (54), (57), and (58)]
- 17. That Staff Sergeant knowingly certified false FSA statements inorder to receive those entitlements. [FF (43), (44), (45), (46), (49), (50), (52), and (55)]
- 18. That Staff Sergeant movingly accepted \$4,382.11 in unauthorized FSA entitlements. [FF (49), (50), (52), and (55)]
- 19. That Staff Sergeant Staff Sergeant Record of Emergency Data on 24 February 1999. [FF (9) and (10)]
- That Staff Sergeant File Local Local Local Local Local Violate the following Articles of the Uniform Code of Military Justice: 92 Failure to obey order or regulation, 107 Making false official statements, and 132 Frauds against the United States.

 [FF (10), (22-25), (27), (41-44), (46), (65), (67), (69-73), (75), (76)]

Recommendations

- 1. That action be initiated to collect all unauthorized entitlements paid to Staff Sergeant
- 2. That an Article 32 Investigation be assigned.



MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF NAVAL RECORDS (BCNR) PERFORMANCE SECTION 2 NAVY ANNEX, SUITE 2432 WASHINGTON, DC 20370-5100

TELEPHONE: (703) 614-2293 OR DSN 224-2293 FACSIMILE: (703) 614-9857 OR DSN 224-9857

DATE: 1FEB02

DOCKET NO: 5813-01

PETITIONER (PETITIONER LISMO

PARTY WHO CALLED: PET

WHAT I SAID: I ASKED WHAT ADDITIONAL EVI HE HAD WHICH HE MENTIONED IN HIS REBUTTAL.

WHAT PARTY SAID: PET INFORMED ME THAT HE WOULD BE DEPLOYED UNTIL MAR02, AND THAT HE REALLY DIDN'T HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL EVI, HOWEVER, HE COULD GET MORE SUPPORTING STATEMENTS WHEN HE RETURNED FROM HIS DEPLOYMENT.

Diag'

BRIAN J. GEORGE