



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

JLP:ddj
Docket No: 1975-03
20 May 2003

[REDACTED]

[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 20 May 2003. 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 advisory opinion furnished by NPC memorandum 1780 Pers 604 of 14 April 2003, a copy of which is attached.

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 advisory opinion. 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

Enclosure



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

NAVY PERSONNEL COMMAND
5720 INTEGRITY DRIVE
MILLINGTON TN 38055-0000

1780
PERS-604
14 Apr 03

MEMORANDUM FOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF
NAVAL RECORDS

Via: Assistant for BCNR Matters (PERS-00ZCB)

Subj: REQUEST FOR COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ICO
MMCS [REDACTED], USN, [REDACTED]

Ref: (a) CNPC memo 5420 PERS-00ZCB of 2 Apr 03
(b) Title 38, United States Code, Chapter 32
(c) Veterans Improvement Act of 1996 (PL 104-275)
(d) Veterans Benefits and Health Care Improvement Act of
2000 (PL 106-419)

1. The following is provided in response to reference (a):

a. Recommend denial of MMCS [REDACTED] request to enroll in the Veterans Educational Assistance Program (VEAP) and convert to the Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB) Program. Per reference (b), VEAP was available to members who entered the military for the first time between 1 January 1977 and 30 June 1985. It was closed to new enrollments on 30 June 1985, but reopened for five months from 28 October 1986 to 31 March 1987. Notification of the open period and final closure of VEAP was given the widest dissemination. A review of MMCS [REDACTED] record indicates he did not enroll in VEAP before the legislated deadlines and, therefore, is not eligible now. Additionally, since MMCS [REDACTED] was not a VEAP participant, he was not eligible for conversion to the MGIB Program.

b. Reference (c) offered MGIB Program enrollment to active duty members with money in a VEAP account on 9 October 1996 (date of enactment). Per reference (d), an individual who was a VEAP participant on or before 9 October 1996 and served continuously from that date through at least 1 April 2000 was allowed an opportunity to convert from VEAP to the MGIB Program. Unfortunately, no provisions were made in references (c) or (d) for members like MMCS [REDACTED] who did not participate in VEAP.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]'s petition contains some discrepancies. [REDACTED] states the counseling he received upon entry was that VEAP was not a good program and offered very little education assistance. [REDACTED] later implies he didn't receive any counseling because there was no documentation in his record to support counseling on VEAP or the MGIB Program. Apparently he was counseled on VEAP in some fashion if he was informed it wasn't a good program and had little to offer. Since [REDACTED] entered active duty on 18 November 1982, he wouldn't have been counseled on the MGIB Program since it didn't exist at that time. [REDACTED] states he learned of a period of time when those who were "VEAP eligible" could convert VEAP eligibility to the MGIB Program. [REDACTED] states he was never afforded the opportunity to accept or decline the conversion. [REDACTED] is incorrect regarding eligibility for conversion. As stated above, references (c) and (d) provided opportunities to "VEAP participants" not "VEAP-era members." [REDACTED] was not afforded the opportunity to convert because he was not a VEAP participant and therefore, not eligible to convert to the MGIB Program.

d. Granting the petitioner's request will not guarantee the Department of Veterans Affairs will award VEAP or MGIB Program benefits since they know the applicant did not establish a VEAP account before 1 April 1987.

2. PERS-604's point of contact is PNC [REDACTED] who can be reached at (DSN) 882-4259 or (C) [REDACTED].

[REDACTED]

Head, Retired Activities and
GI Bill Programs Branch
(PERS-604)