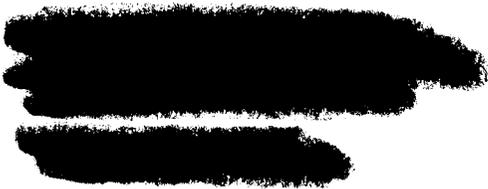




DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF NAVAL RECORDS
2 NAVY ANNEX
WASHINGTON DC 20370-5100

SJN
Docket No: 08438-07
21 August 2008



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 19 August 2008. 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.

You enlisted in the Marine Corps on 23 March 1972 at age 17. On 30 March 1972, you received nonjudicial punishment for two specifications of disobedience. On 27 December 1972, you were convicted by summary court-martial (SCM) of five instances of unauthorized absence (UA) totaling 88 days. You were sentenced to confinement at hard labor and a forfeiture of pay.

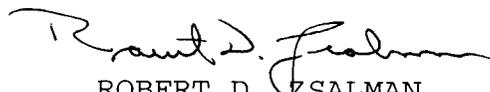
During the period from 26 February 1973 to 8 December 1974, you had six periods of UA totaling 527 days. On 16 December 1974, you submitted a written request for a good of the service discharge in order to avoid trial by court-martial for the UA periods. Prior to submitting this request for discharge, you conferred with a qualified military lawyer, were advised of your rights, and warned of the probable adverse consequences of accepting such a discharge.

Your request for discharge was granted and on 6 March 1975 you received an other than honorable discharge for the good of the service in lieu of trial by court-martial. 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.

The Board, in its review of your application, carefully weighed all potentially mitigating factors, such as your youth, overall record of service, and contentions of inadequate counsel and medical issues. Nevertheless, the Board concluded these factors and contention were not sufficient to warrant recharacterization of your discharge because of your misconduct that resulted in one NJP, a SCM conviction for almost three months of UA, charges being preferred to a court-martial for periods of UA totaling over 17 months, and your request for discharge. The Board believed that considerable clemency was extended to you when your request for discharge was approved. The Board also concluded that you received the benefit of your bargain with the Marine Corps when your request for discharge was granted and should not be permitted to change it now. Concerning your contention, there is no evidence in the record to support them, and you submitted no such evidence. 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,



ROBERT D. ZSALMAN
Acting Executive Director