



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

SJN
Docket No: 09074-07
3 November 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 21 October 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 Navy and began a period of active duty on 20 August 1984 at age 23. You served without incident until 10 June 1987, when you received nonjudicial punishment (NJP) for assault, and drunk and disorderly conduct. On 23 November 1987, you were counseled and warned that further misconduct could result in administrative discharge action.

On 15 January 1988, you received a second NJP for 17 days of unauthorized absence (UA). On 22 March 1988, you were found to be dependent on drugs after you referred yourself for help due to methamphetamine use. At that time, it was recommended that you receive treatment at a Navy Alcohol Rehabilitation Center while awaiting level III treatment. However, on 7 April 1988, you received a third NJP for a brief period of UA, and wrongful use of amphetamine/methamphetamine.

On 11 May 1988, administrative discharge action was initiated to separate you by reason of misconduct due to drug abuse. You waived your rights to consult counsel, submit a statement or have your case heard by an administrative discharge board (ADB).

On 24 May 1988, your commanding officer forwarded his recommendation that you be discharged under other than honorable conditions by reason of misconduct due to drug abuse. On 17 June 1988, the discharge authority directed an other than honorable discharge by reason of misconduct. On 8 August 1988 you were so discharged.

The Board, in its review of your application, carefully weighed all potentially mitigating factors, such as your youth and overall record of service. Nevertheless, the Board concluded these factors were not sufficient to warrant recharacterization of your discharge because of your misconduct that resulted in three NJP's, one of which was for drug use. The Board also noted that you waived the right to an ADB, your best opportunity for retention or a better characterization of service. 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