



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

SMS
Docket No: 396-08
21 August 2008

[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 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.

On 7 February 1985, you enlisted in the Navy at age 24. On 1 September 1988, you had nonjudicial punishment (NJP) for a brief instance of unauthorized absence. On 9 September 1988, you were counseled regarding deficiencies in your performance and conduct and warned that further infractions could result in disciplinary action or an other than honorable (OTH) discharge. On 29 September 1988, suspended punishment was vacated from the NJP. On 1 October 1988, you received a medical evaluation during which you admitted using cocaine and your urinalysis tested positive for cocaine and marijuana. The evaluation concluded by diagnosing you with chronic polysubstance abuse. On 1 October 1988, you were convicted by a summary court-martial of use of a controlled substance.

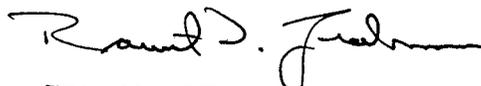
On 3 October 1988, your commanding officer initiated administrative separation by reason of misconduct due to drug abuse. In connection with this processing, you acknowledged

that separation could result in an OTH discharge and waived the right to have your case heard by an administrative discharge board (ADB). On 13 October 1988, a medical evaluation found that you were psychologically dependent on drugs. On 14 October 1988, you waived the right to receive inpatient substance abuse treatment. On 5 December 1988, the separation authority approved the discharge recommendation and directed an OTH discharge by reason of misconduct due to drug abuse. On 17 December 1988, you were so discharged.

The Board, in its review of your entire record and application, carefully weighed all potential mitigation, such as your youth and length of time since you were discharged. Nevertheless, the Board concluded that these factors were not sufficient to warrant recharacterization of your discharge due to the seriousness of your misconduct. The Board also noted that you waived the right to have your case heard by an ADB, your best opportunity for retention or a more favorable characterization of service. Therefore, the Board concluded that the discharge was proper as issued and no change is warranted. 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,



For W. DEAN PFEIFFER
Executive Director