



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

SMS  
Docket No: 4060-08  
16 January 2009

[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 14 January 2009. 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 that the evidence submitted was insufficient to establish the existence of probable material error or injustice.

On 5 January 1983, you enlisted in the Navy at age 19. On 1 May 1984, a substance abuse message stated that your urinalysis was retested, and was positive for marijuana. The message also stated that you denied use of marijuana. On 3 February 1986, you began a period of unauthorized absence (UA). On 2 March 1986, while in a UA status, you were hospitalized as a result of injuries from a car accident. Your UA status was subsequently terminated. On 2 May 1986, you had nonjudicial punishment (NJP) for the 27 day period of UA. On 14 May 1986, 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 12 June 1986, you received a medical evaluation which found that you were not dependent on drugs. On 13 June 1986, you had NJP for a brief instance of UA, failure to go to your appointed place of duty, and use of marijuana.

On 20 June 1986, your commanding officer initiated administrative separation by reason of misconduct due to drug abuse and commission of a serious offense. 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 26 June 1986, you had NJP for five

instances of missing restriction muster. On 7 July 1986, the separation authority approved the discharge recommendation and directed an OTH discharge by reason of misconduct due to drug abuse. On 17 July 1986, you were so discharged.

The Board, in its review of your entire record and application, carefully weighed all potential mitigation, such as your youth, desire for a better discharge, and post service achievements. Nevertheless, the Board concluded that these factors were not sufficient to warrant recharacterization of your discharge due to the seriousness of your misconduct that continued even after you were warned that further infractions could result in an OTH discharge. 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,

W. DEAN PFEIFFER  
Executive Director