



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

SMS  
Docket No: 5961-08  
26 February 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 25 February 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 27 October 1986, you enlisted in the Marine Corps at age 19. On 4 December 1987, you were convicted by a summary court-martial (SCM) of a two day period of unauthorized absence (UA) and disobedience of a lawful order. On 29 December 1987, you were counseled regarding your misconduct and warned that further infractions could result in disciplinary action or administrative separation. On 8 July 1988, you were convicted by a SCM of two instances of UA totaling 37 days.

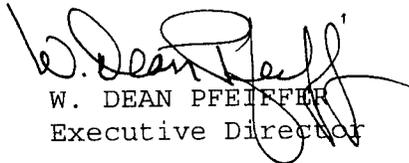
On 11 October 1988, your commanding officer initiated administrative separation by reason of misconduct due to a pattern of misconduct. In connection with this processing, you acknowledged that separation could result in an other than honorable (OTH) discharge and waived the right to have your case heard by an administrative discharge board (ADB). On 3 November 1988, the separation authority approved the discharge recommendation and directed an OTH discharge by reason of misconduct due to a pattern of misconduct. On 10 November 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. The Board also considered your contentions that you were never offered treatment for alcohol abuse and that it contributed to your

misconduct. The Board also considered the character reference letters that you submitted with your application. 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 administrative separation. Regarding your contentions, there is no evidence in the record to show that you ever requested or were denied treatment for alcohol abuse, but even if there was such evidence, that would not excuse 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,



W. DEAN PFEIFFER  
Executive Director