



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

SJN
Docket No: 08235-08
10 July 2009



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 8 July 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 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 6 September 1983 at age 19. You served without incident for over four years until 8 March and 12 October 1988, when you received nonjudicial punishment (NJP) for dereliction of duty, disobedience, and wrongful use of marijuana.

On 19 October 1988, administrative discharge action was initiated 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 4 November 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 13 November 1988 the separation authority directed an other than honorable discharge by reason of misconduct due to drug abuse. On 23 November 1988 you were so discharged.

The Board, in its review of your application, carefully weighed all potentially mitigating factors, such as your youth, overall record of service, post service medical issues, letter from District 19 Community Services Board, and contention that your current medical condition caused your misconduct. Nevertheless, the Board concluded these factors were not sufficient to warrant recharacterization of your discharge because of your two NJP's, one of which was for drug use. Further, you waived the right to an ADB, your best chance for retention or a better characterization of service. With regard to your contention, the Board noted that there is no evidence in your record, and you submitted none, to support it. 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