



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

BAN  
Docket No: 09355-08  
10 August 2009

[REDACTED]

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This is in reference to your application for correction of your naval record pursuant to the provisions of Title 10, 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 5 August 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 on 11 October 1983, and served without disciplinary incident. However, on 6 March 1985, you referred yourself to the medical department for alcohol abuse. You were also pending charges for an unauthorized absence (UA) in excess of five days. During this time, you also self-admitted to the use of an illegal controlled substance (marijuana).

Shortly thereafter, you went UA and were declared a deserter. On 27 June 1986, you were apprehended by the local authorities and returned to military jurisdiction; you were UA for approximately 13 months. On 21 July 1986, you received nonjudicial punishment (NJP) for five specifications of UA. Further, on 30 July 1986, you were convicted at a special court-martial (SPCM) for UA. You received a bad conduct discharge (BCD) as part of your sentence. After appellate review, on 10 February 1986, you were separated

from the naval service with a BCD and an RE-4 reenlistment code due to your SPCM conviction.

The Board, in its review of your entire record and application, carefully weighed all potentially mitigating factors, such as your youth, medical issues, and belief that enough time has elapsed to warrant upgrading your discharge. Nevertheless, the Board concluded these factors were not sufficient to warrant recharacterization of your discharge because of the seriousness of your misconduct. Further, there is no provision in the law or regulations that allows for recharacterization of service due solely to the passage of time. 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