



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

CRS  
Docket No: 2091-08  
20 July 2009

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

The Board found that you enlisted in the Marine Corps on 7 February 1973. On 3 May 1976 you submitted a written request for discharge for the good of the service in lieu of trial by court-martial for an unauthorized absence of 215 days. Prior to submitting this request you conferred with a qualified military lawyer who advised you of your rights and warned of the probable adverse consequences of receiving an undesirable discharge. Your request was approved by the discharge authority, and you received an undesirable discharge on 21 May 1976.

In its review of your application the Board carefully weighed all potentially mitigating factors, such as your contention to the effect that you had symptoms of "Post Dramatic [sic] Stress Syndrome" which caused you to absent yourself without authority and remain absent for an extended period of time. The Board found that contention insufficient to warrant corrective action in your case.

The Board concluded that your service was properly characterized as under other than honorable conditions given the serious nature of the offense for which you were discharged. In addition, the Board believes that considerable clemency was extended to you


when your request for discharge was approved since, by that action, you avoided the possibility of a Federal conviction, confinement at hard labor and a punitive discharge. Further, the Board concluded that you received the benefit of your bargain when your request for discharge was granted, and you should not be permitted to change it now.

The Board concluded that the available records do not contain any credible evidence that you suffered from a mental disorder that was incurred or aggravated by your service in the Marine Corps, or that you lacked mental responsibility for your actions.

In view of the foregoing, 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