



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

TJR
Docket No: 1640-09
18 November 2009

[REDACTED]

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 17 November 2009. The names and votes of the members of the panel will be furnished upon request. 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 reenlisted in the Marine Corps on 4 June 1982 after five years of prior honorable service. You continued to serve without disciplinary incident until 14 February 1986, when you received nonjudicial punishment (NJP) for wrongful use of marijuana. The punishment imposed was restriction and extra duty for 45 days and reduction to paygrade E-4. About two months later, on 8 April 1986, you received NJP for two specifications of wrongful use of marijuana and wrongful use of amphetamines/methamphetamines. The punishment imposed was restriction and extra duty for 45 days and reduction to paygrade E-3.

Shortly thereafter, on 14 April 1986, you were notified of pending administrative separation action by reason of misconduct due to drug abuse. At that time you waived your right to consult with legal counsel and to present your case to an administrative discharge board (ADB). On 16 April 1986 your commanding officer recommended discharge under other than honorable conditions by reason of misconduct due to drug abuse.

On 6 June 1986 the discharge authority approved this recommendation and directed your commanding officer to issue you an other than honorable discharge by reason of misconduct due to drug abuse, and on 13 June 1986, you were so discharged.

The Board, in its review of your entire record and application, carefully weighed all potentially mitigating factors, such as your prior honorable service and desire to upgrade your discharge. Nevertheless, the Board concluded these factors were not sufficient to warrant recharacterization of your discharge because of the seriousness of your drug related misconduct which resulted in two NJPs. Finally, you waived your procedural right to present your case to an ADB and as such relinquished an opportunity to defend yourself and possibly receive a better characterization of service. Accordingly, your application has been denied.

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