



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

TAL  
Docket No: 3584-09  
12 February 2010

[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 21 January 2010. 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.

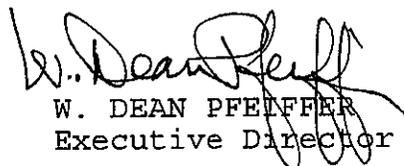
You enlisted in the Marine Corps and began a period of active duty on 25 January 1968 at age 19. On 28 August 1968, you received nonjudicial punishment (NJP) for a ten day period of unauthorized absence (UA) from your unit. On 17 September 1968, you received NJP for UA from your appointed place of duty and disobeying a lawful order. On 22 November 1968, you received NJP for UA from you appointed place of duty. On 3 June 1969, you were convicted by special court-martial (SPCM) of three instances of assault. On 10 November 1969, you were convicted by SPCM of two instances of assault and communicating a threat. On 10 November 1970, you were charged for the wrongful use of marijuana. On 4 May 1970, you submitted a written request to be discharged for the good of the service to avoid trial by court-martial for the wrongful use of marijuana. You conferred with a qualified military lawyer, were advised of your rights, and warned of the probable adverse consequences of accepting such a discharge. On 4 May 1970, your commanding officer forwarded his recommendation that you be discharged for the good of the service with an other than honorable (OTH) discharge. On 9 May 1970, the separation authority approved an OTH discharge for the good of the service. On 28 May 1970 you were so discharged. As a result

of this action, you were spared the stigma of a court-martial conviction and the potential penalties of a punitive discharge and confinement at hard labor.

The Board, in its review of your application, carefully weighed all potentially mitigating factors, such as your youth and overall record of service. Nevertheless, the Board concluded these factors were not sufficient to warrant recharacterization of your discharge given your three NJP's, two SPCM's and request for discharge to avoid trial. The Board believed that considerable clemency was extended to you when your request for discharge was approved. The Board also concluded that you received the benefit of your bargain with the Marine Corps when your request for discharge was granted and should not be permitted to change it now. 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