



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

TAL  
Docket No: 3771-09  
23 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 3 February 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.

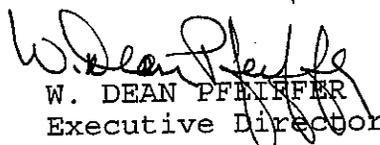
After careful and conscientious consideration of the entire record, the Board found the evidence submitted was insufficient to establish the existence of probable material error or injustice.

You enlisted in the Marine Corps and began a period of active duty on 17 November 1970 at age 23. On 5 January 1972, you were convicted at a special court-martial (SPCM) of a 134 day period of unauthorized absence (UA) from your unit. On 7 November 1972, you received nonjudicial punishment (NJP) for failure to obey a lawful order. On 9 February 1973, you submitted a written request for a good of the service discharge in order to avoid trial by court-martial for possession of one gram of marijuana, and for the wrongful sale of marijuana. You conferred with a qualified military lawyer, you were advised of your rights, and warned of the probable adverse consequences of accepting such a discharge. Based on the information currently contained in your record your commanding officer forwarded his recommendation that you be discharged for the good of the service with an undesirable discharge. On 23 February 1973, the separation authority directed an undesirable discharge for the good of the service. On 13 March 1973 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, overall record of service and the character letters accompanying your application. Nevertheless, the Board concluded these factors were not sufficient to warrant recharacterization of your discharge given the seriousness of your misconduct 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