



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

BJG

Docket No: 10008-09

3 November 2009



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 November 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 entered active duty in the Marine Corps on 28 March 1968. You received nonjudicial punishment on four occasions for larceny, failure to obey a lawful order, two instances of dereliction in the performance of your duties, and failure to report to your appointed place of duty. You also had a civil charge of receiving stolen property, and convictions for a traffic violation and "joy riding." On 11 September 1970, you requested an other than honorable (OTH) discharge for the good of the service to avoid trial by court-martial for five

specifications of unauthorized absence totaling 71 days, willfully disobeying a lawful order, failure to obey a lawful order, willful destruction of government property, and wrongful possession of two military identification cards. At that time, you consulted with qualified military counsel and acknowledged the adverse consequences of receiving such a discharge. On 21 September 1970, the separation authority approved your request for an OTH discharge. On 2 October 1970, you were separated with an OTH discharge for the good of the service to avoid trial by court-martial. 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 entire record, carefully considered all potential mitigation, such as your youth and the character reference letters you submitted with your application. Nevertheless, the Board concluded that these factors were not sufficient to warrant recharacterization of your discharge due to the seriousness of your repetitive misconduct. Furthermore, the Board believed that considerable clemency was extended to you when your request for discharge to avoid trial by court-martial was approved. It was also clear to the Board that you received the benefit of your bargain with the Marine Corps when your request for discharge was granted and you should not be permitted to change it now. In view of the above, 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