



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

TJR
Docket No: 297-10
13 October 2010



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 6 October 2010. 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 enlisted in the Marine Corps on 29 December 1977 at age 21 and began a period of active duty on 10 January 1978. You served without disciplinary incident until 8 September 1978, when you received nonjudicial punishment (NJP) for a four day period of unauthorized absence (UA). On 26 September 1978 you were referred for an evaluation to determine your fitness for duty. You were diagnosed with chronic depressive neurosis and habitual excessive drinking, all of which existed prior to your enlistment. You were found to be unfit for further service and recommended for an administrative separation.

Subsequently, you were processed for an administrative separation by reason of convenience of the government due to unsuitability as evidenced by your diagnosed character and behavior disorder/depressive neurosis. The discharge authority directed discharge under honorable conditions, and on 8 January 1979, you were issued a general discharge.

Character of service is based, in part, on conduct and proficiency averages which are computed from marks assigned during periodic evaluations. Your conduct average was 3.9. An average of 4.0 in conduct was required at the time of your separation for a fully honorable characterization of service.

The Board, in its review of your entire record and application, carefully weighed all potentially mitigating factors, such as your youth and desire to upgrade the characterization of your general discharge. Nevertheless, the Board concluded these factors were not sufficient to warrant recharacterization of your general discharge because of your misconduct, which resulted in NJP, and since your conduct average was insufficiently high to warrant a fully honorable 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