



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

REC
Docket No: 10677-10
8 August 2011

[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 August 2011. 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 14 September 1967, at age 17. On 8 April 1968, you received nonjudicial punishment (NJP) for disobeying an order given by your commanding officer, and wrongfully discharging your M-16 rifle. On 21 October 1969, you received NJP for being in an unauthorized absence (UA) status on two occasions which totaled nine days, and failure to obey a lawful order. On 19 December 1969, you were convicted by a summary court-martial (SCM) of being UA for nine days. You were sentenced to forfeiture of \$50, reduction in pay grade, and confinement at hard labor for 30 days. On 22 September 1970, you were convicted by a special court-martial (SPCM) of being UA for 210 days. You were sentenced to forfeiture of \$255, confinement at hard labor for three months, and a bad conduct discharge (BCD). Apparently, your BCD was suspended. However, on 17 February 1971, you submitted a request for a good of the service discharge to avoid trial by court-martial for being UA a total of 50 days. Prior to submitting this request for discharge, you conferred with a qualified military lawyer, were advised of your rights, and were warned of the probable adverse consequences of accepting such a discharge. Your commanding

officer forwarded his recommendation that you be discharged under undesirable conditions by reason of the good of service. Your request for discharge was granted and on 2 April 1971, you received an undesirable discharge for the good of the service. 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. At that time you were assigned an RE-4 reenlistment code.

The Board, in its review of your application, carefully weighed all potentially mitigating factors, such as your youth, conduct and performance, Vietnam combat record, and overall record of service. Nevertheless, the Board found that these factors were not sufficient to warrant changing the characterization of your service, given your two NJP's, conviction by a SCM, SPCM of misconduct and request for discharge. 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