



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

TJR
Docket No: 11685-10
25 August 2011

[REDACTED]

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 23 August 2011. 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 22 June 1973 at age 19 and immediately began a period of active duty. You served for about four months without disciplinary incident. However, on 8 October 1973, you began a period of unauthorized absence (UA) that was not terminated until 18 December 1973. On 22 January 1974 you submitted a written request for an other than honorable discharge for the good of the service to avoid trial by court-martial for the foregoing period of UA totalling 64 days. However, your request was denied and the charge was referred for trial by court-martial. Shortly thereafter, on 7 February 1974, you were convicted by special court-martial (SPCM) of the foregoing 64 day period of UA and sentenced to confinement at hard labor for two months, a \$434 forfeiture of pay, and a bad conduct discharge (BCD). On 11 April 1974 you submitted a written request for immediate execution of the BCD, stating in part, that you could not adjust to military life and if returned to duty, you would again go UA. Subsequently, the BCD was approved at all levels of review and on 15 August 1974 you were so discharged.

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 your discharge. Nevertheless, these factors were not sufficient to warrant recharacterization of your discharge because of the seriousness of your lengthy period of UA from the Marine Corps. 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