



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

TJR
Docket No: 11716-10
16 September 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 13 September 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 25 June 1986 at age 20 and began a period of active duty on 6 April 1987. About five months later, you were referred for a psychiatric evaluation because of your depression and attempted suicide, specifically, ingesting 18 Serax and 17 Phenergan tablets while under the influence of alcohol. On 8 September 1987 you were diagnosed as alcohol dependent and referred for in-patient alcohol rehabilitation, which you successfully completed on 8 October 1987. However, on 14 October 1987, you received nonjudicial punishment (NJP) for wrongful use of marijuana. Shortly thereafter, in December 1987, you were again referred for a psychiatric evaluation because of depression, alcohol and drug abuse, and suicidal ideation. You were diagnosed with an adjustment disorder, alcohol dependence, and a borderline personality disorder, and recommended for an administrative separation.

On 13 January 1988 you were again recommended for an administrative separation because of your alcohol abuse relapse and failure to participate in any further rehabilitation. Subsequently, you were processed for an administrative separation by reason of convenience of the government due to alcohol rehabilitation failure. After waiving your procedural rights, the discharge authority directed discharge under honorable conditions by reason of alcohol rehabilitation failure, and on 28 March 1988, 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 3.8. 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, desire to upgrade the characterization of your general discharge, and the passage of time. Nevertheless, the Board concluded these factors were not sufficient to warrant recharacterization of your general discharge because of your drug and alcohol related misconduct, alcohol and drug rehabilitation failure, refusal to further participate in an alcohol and drug rehabilitation program, 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