



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

BJG

Docket No: 1808-11

9 November 2011

[REDACTED]

[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 8 November 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 that the evidence submitted was insufficient to establish the existence of probable material error or injustice.

You enlisted in the Navy and entered active duty on 28 December 1978. You received nonjudicial punishment on eight occasions for unauthorized absence (three specifications totaling seven days), missing ship's movement, disrespect (two specifications), causing a breach of the peace, wrongful possession of a weapon, failure to obey a lawful order (two specifications), absence from your appointed place of duty (six specifications), and breaking restriction. You then requested a discharge under other than honorable (OTH) conditions for the good of the service to avoid trial by court-martial for seven periods of unauthorized absence totaling 270 days. You consulted with qualified military counsel and acknowledged the

adverse consequences of receiving such a discharge. The separation authority approved your request for a discharge under OTH conditions. On 21 April 1978, you were separated with a discharge under OTH conditions 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 potentially mitigating factors, such as your youth and current desire to upgrade your discharge to received veterans' medical benefits. Nevertheless, the Board concluded that these factors were not sufficient to warrant recharacterization of your discharge due to your unauthorized absence periods which totaled nine months and voluntary request for discharge. 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 Navy when your request for discharge was granted and should not be permitted to change it now. You are advised that no discharge is automatically upgraded due merely to post service good conduct or the passage of time. 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.

Regarding your desire for veterans' medical benefits, please contact your local Department of Veterans Affairs office to see if you are eligible based upon any service connected injuries.

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