



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF NAVAL RECORDS  
701 S. COURTHOUSE ROAD, SUITE 1001  
ARLINGTON, VA 22204-2490

TJR  
Docket No: 3214-11  
13 January 2012

[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 12 January 2012. 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 23 June 1969 at age 18 and began a period of active duty. You served without disciplinary incident until 3 September 1971, when you received nonjudicial punishment (NJP) for absence from your appointed place of duty and a 26 day period of unauthorized absence (UA). The punishment imposed was correctional custody for 30 days and reduction to paygrade E-2.

Subsequently, you were processed for an administrative separation by reason of unfitness. On 24 November 1971 your commanding officer recommended you be issued a general discharge by reason of unfitness as evidenced by your failure to respond to counselling and inability to abstain from drugs. The discharge authority approved this recommendation and directed separation under honorable conditions. On 7 December 1971, while serving in paygrade E-1, you were issued a general discharge by reason of unfitness and assigned an RE-4 reenlistment code.

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 the seriousness of your misconduct, which resulted in NJP, and your failure to abstain from using drugs. Finally, Marines with a record of misconduct, such as yours, normally receive discharges under other than honorable conditions, and as such the Board noted that you were fortunate to receive a general 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 PREFFER  
Executive Director