



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

SJN  
Docket No: 01331-12  
2 October 2012

[REDACTED]

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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 2 October 2012. 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 and began a period of active duty on 30 October 1974. The Board found that on 3 September and 12 November 1975, you received nonjudicial punishment (NJP) for wrongful possession of marijuana and disobedience. On 18 August 1976, you began a period of unauthorized absence (UA) that lasted 95 days, ending on 18 November 1976. On 7 January 1977, you submitted a written request for a good of the service discharge in order to avoid trial by court-martial for 95 days of UA. However, your request for discharge was denied on 12 January 1977. During the period from 31 January 1977 to 5 January 1978, you had two additional periods of UA totaling 331 days. On 13 January 1978, you submitted another written request for a good of the service discharge in order to avoid trial by court-martial for three period of UA totaling 426 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 request for discharge was granted and on 30 January 1978, you received an other than honorable discharge for the good of the service in lieu of 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 application, carefully weighed all potentially mitigating factors, such as your youth and record of service. Nevertheless, the Board concluded these factors were not sufficient to warrant recharacterization of your discharge given your misconduct that resulted in two NJP's, charges being preferred to a court-martial for periods of UA totaling over 14 months, and request for discharge. The Board believed that considerable clemency was extended to you when your request for discharge was approved. 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