



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF NAVAL RECORDS
701 S. COURTHOUSE ROAD, SUITE 1001

TAL

Docket No: 8219-13

17 September 2014



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 4 September 2014. 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 reenlisted in the Navy on 12 August 1980 after six years of prior honorable service. On 14 June 1982 you were convicted by summary court-martial (SCM) of five instances of unauthorized absence (UA) from your unit totaling a period of 39 days. On 17 April 1983, you were UA from your unit until you surrendered on 20 December 1983, a period of 247 days. Based on the information currently contained in your record it appears that you submitted a written request for an other than honorable (OTH) discharge in order to avoid trial by court-martial. Prior to submitting this request you would have conferred with a qualified military lawyer at which time you were advised of your rights and warned of the probable adverse consequences of accepting such a discharge. On 29 March 1984, your request was granted and you were separated with an OTH discharge. 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 and application carefully weighed all potentially mitigating factors, such as your youth, prior honorable service, and overall record of service. Nevertheless, the Board concluded these factors were not sufficient to warrant recharacterization of your discharge given the seriousness of your misconduct that resulted in an SCM, periods of UA totaling over nine months and request for discharge. The Board believed that considerable clemency was extended to you when your request for discharge to avoid trial by court-martial was approved. The Board concluded 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. Finally, there is no provision of law or in Navy regulations that allows for recharacterization of service due solely to the passage of time. 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,



ROBERT J. O'NEILL
Executive Director