



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

SJN
Docket No: 2154-14
6 April 2015

[REDACTED]

Dear [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.

Although your application was not filed in a timely manner, the Board found it in the interest of justice to waive the statute of limitations and consider your application on its merits. A three-member panel of the Board for Correction of Naval Records, sitting in executive session, considered your application on 11 March 2015. 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 and began a period of active duty on 18 December 1970. The Board found that on 13 July 1972, you were admitted to the hospital from an alleged overdose of heroin and the ingestion of barbiturates. An investigation was conducted and subsequently, you were processed for an administrative discharge by reason of unfitness due to your wrongful drug use. You elected to waive the right to have your case heard by a board of officers. On 10 October 1972, your commanding officer recommended that you receive an undesirable discharge by reason of unfitness. On 29 November 1972, the separating authority concurred and directed an undesirable discharge. You were so discharged on 6 December 1972.

The Board, in its review of your entire record and application, carefully weighed all potentially mitigating factors, such as your record of service and desire to upgrade your discharge. Nevertheless, the board found that these factors were not sufficient to warrant recharacterization of your discharge given your wrongful drug use. The Board also noted that you waived the right to have your case heard by a board of officers, your best chance for retention or a better 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 within one year from the date of the Board's decision. New evidence is evidence not previously considered by the Board prior to making its decision in your case. 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert J. O'Neill", written in a cursive style.

ROBERT J. O'NEILL
Executive Director