

## DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

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

> Docket No. 7286-16 DEC 1 1 2017



Dear

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 25 September 2017. 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, relevant portions of your naval record and applicable statutes, regulations and policies.

You enlisted in the Navy and began a period of active duty on 13 March 1989. On 13 February and 14 April 1992, you received nonjudicial punishment (NJP) for unauthorized absence (UA), failure to obey a lawful order and wrongful use of a controlled substance. As a result of the foregoing, your Commanding Officer provided notice of proposed administrative discharge board (ADB) action. On 1 May 1992, you received another NJP for wrongful use of a controlled substance. On 28 May 1992, you signed a statement of awareness, consulted with counsel and waived your right to an administrative discharge board. On 30 June 1992, you were discharged with an Other Than Honorable (OTH) characterization of service.

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. The Board carefully weighed all potentially mitigating factors, such as your desire to upgrade your character of service and your contention that the Board should merit consideration being that you served during a time of combat and participated in Operation Desert Storm. The Board noted that the record shows that you were notified of and waived your procedural right to present your case to an administrative board (ADB). In doing so, you gave up your first and best opportunity to advocate for retention or a more favorable characterization of service. The Board concluded there was no error or injustice in your record. Accordingly, your application has been denied.

It is regretted that the circumstances of your case are such that favorable action cannot be taken at this time. You are entitled to have the Board reconsider its decision upon the submission of new and material evidence. New evidence is evidence 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,

Executive Director