



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



Docket No: 7765-20
Ref: Signature Date



Dear Petitioner:

This is in reference to your application for correction of your naval record pursuant to Title 10, United States Code, Section 1552. After careful and conscientious consideration of the entire record, the Board for Correction of Naval Records (Board) found the evidence submitted was insufficient to establish the existence of probable material error or injustice. Consequently, your application has been denied.

Although you did not file your application in a timely manner, the statute of limitations was waived in accordance with the 25 August 2017 guidance from the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (Kurta Memo). A three-member panel of the Board, sitting in executive session, considered your application on 19 July 2021. The names and votes of the panel members 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 the 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, to include the Kurta Memo, the 3 September 2014 guidance from the Secretary of Defense regarding discharge upgrade requests by Veterans claiming post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) (Hagel Memo), and the 25 July 2018 guidance from the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness regarding equity, injustice, or clemency determinations (Wilkie Memo). In addition, the Board considered the advisory opinion (AO) furnished by a qualified mental health professional dated 17 May 2021, which was previously provided to you.

You enlisted in the Navy and began a period of active duty on 2 October 1990. On 6 December 1991, you were convicted by a summary court-martial (SCM) of 3 specifications of unauthorized absence (UA) totaling 74 days. On 9 January 1992, you were notified of administrative discharge action by reason of misconduct due to commission of a serious offense. After being afforded your procedural rights, you elected to waive your right to request to have your case heard before an administrative discharge board. On 18 January 1992, your case was forwarded to the separation authority with a recommendation that you receive an other than honorable (OTH) discharge. On 22 January 1992, the separation authority directed that you be separated from the Navy with an OTH discharge due to commission of a serious offense, and you were discharged the same day.

A qualified mental health professional reviewed your request for correction to your record and provided the Board with an AO regarding your assertion that you were suffering from PTSD during your service. The AO noted that the preponderance of objective evidence failed to establish you were diagnosed with a mental health condition or suffered from a mental health condition at the time of your military service, or that your in-service misconduct could be mitigated by a mental health condition.

The Board carefully considered all potentially mitigating factors to determine whether the interests of justice warrant relief in your case in accordance with the Wilkie Memo. These included, but were not limited to your assertions that your leading Chief Petty Officer offered you an early discharge if you accepted an OTH discharge, that you did not know the consequences of an OTH and accepted it, and your misconduct was completely out of fear because the flight deck scared you to death. Based upon this review, the Board concluded these potentially mitigating factors were insufficient to warrant relief. Specifically, the Board determined that your misconduct, as evidenced by your SCM outweighed these mitigating factors. Additionally, the Board concurred with the conclusion of the AO. Accordingly, given the totality of the circumstances, the Board determined that your request does not merit relief.

You are entitled to have the Board reconsider its decision upon submission of new matters, which will require you to complete and submit a new DD Form 149. New matters are those not previously presented to or 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,

7/23/2021

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Executive Director

Signed by █