



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

█
Docket No. 832-21
Ref: Signature Date

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Dear █:█:█:

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

A three-member panel of the Board, sitting in executive session, considered your application on 7 October 2021. 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, as well as the 14 January 2021 decision by the Marine Corps Performance Evaluation Review Board (PERB), and the 9 December 2020 Advisory Opinion (AO) provided to the PERB by the Manpower Management Division Records and Performance Branch (MMRP-30). The PERB decision and the AO were provided to you on 14 January 2021, and you were given 30 days in which to submit a response. Although you were afforded an opportunity to submit a rebuttal, you did not do so.

The Board determined that your personal appearance, with or without counsel, would not materially add to their understanding of the issues involved. Therefore, the Board determined that a personal appearance was not necessary and considered your case based on the evidence of record.

The Board carefully considered your request to remove your 18 November 2019 to 30 April 2020 Fitness Report. The Board considered your following contentions: you were marked “not observed” in ‘Section H’, however, you performed as a Reviewing Officer (RO) during this period; the Reporting Senior (RS) deliberately lowered the relative value of the report as a reprisal for a Prohibited Activities and Conduct (PAC) complaint you filed against him; the RS deliberately delayed processing the report until he was certain of the results of the investigation

of the PAC complaint; and the report violates the Performance Evaluation System (PES) Manual through gaming, inaccurate reporting, and reprisal.

The Board, however, substantially concurred with the AO and the PERB decision that the report is valid as written and filed, in accordance with the applicable PES Manual guidance. In this regard, the Board noted that you did not furnish any evidence to support your contentions of inaccurate reporting or overt gaming on the part of the RS. Additionally, as your direct supervisor, the RS was not required, per the PES Manual, to formally review reports to which you served as the RO. The Board further noted that your command was fully justified in delaying the processing of this report to ensure proper adjudication of the PAC complaint. The Board thus concluded that your request is lacking in substantial evidence of error or injustice warranting removal of the report.

The Board also determined there was insufficient evidence to conclude you were the victim of reprisal in violation of 10 USC 1034. 10 USC 1034 provides the right to request Secretary of Defense review of cases with substantiated reprisal allegations where the Secretary of the Navy's follow-on corrective or disciplinary actions are at issue. Additionally, in accordance with DoD policy you have the right to request review of the Secretary of the Navy's decision regardless of whether your reprisal allegation was substantiated or non-substantiated. Your written request must show by clear and convincing evidence that the Secretary of the Navy acted arbitrarily, capriciously, or contrary to law. This is not a de novo review and under 10 USC 1034(c) the Secretary of Defense cannot review issues that do not involve reprisal. You must file within 90 days of receipt of this letter to the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness (USD(P&R)), Office of Legal Policy, 4000 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301-4000. Your written request must contain your full name, grade/rank, duty status, duty title, organization, duty location, mailing address, and telephone number; a copy of your BCNR application and final decisional documents; and, a statement of the specific reasons why you are not satisfied with this decision and the specific remedy or relief requested. Your request must be based on factual allegations or evidence previously presented to the BCNR, therefore, please also include previously presented documentation that supports your statements.

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,

10/7/2021

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Deputy Director

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