



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

IJP

Ref: Signature Date

From: Chairman, Board for Correction of Naval Records
To: Secretary of the Navy

Subj: REVIEW OF NAVAL RECORD ICO [REDACTED] USN RET
[REDACTED]

Ref: (a) Title 10 U.S.C. § 1552
(b) DODFMR, Vol 7B, Chp 43
(c) DD Form 2656

Encl: (1) DD Form 149 w/attachments
(2) Subject's naval record

1. Pursuant to the provisions of reference (a), Subject, hereinafter referred to as Petitioner, filed enclosure (1) with the Board for Correction of Naval Records (Board), requesting that his naval record be corrected to reflect he declined participation in the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP).

2. The Board, consisting of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] reviewed Petitioner's allegations of error and injustice on 5 January 2022 and, pursuant to its regulations, determined that the corrective action indicated below should be taken on the available evidence of record. Documentary material considered by the Board consisted of the enclosures, relevant portions of Petitioner's naval record, and applicable statutes, regulations, and policies.

3. The Board, having reviewed all the facts of record pertaining to Petitioner's allegations of error and injustice, found that, before applying to this Board, he exhausted all administrative remedies available under existing law and regulations within the Department of the Navy. The Board made the following findings:

a. In accordance with reference (b), SBP elections must be made prior to retired pay becoming payable and the election to participate in or decline SBP is irrevocable. If not all requirements for an election needing the spouse's concurrence have been satisfied prior to retirement, for whatever reason, full spouse costs, and coverage will be implemented, regardless of any request by the member to do otherwise. Any change in SBP election subsequent to retirement will be done through an administrative correction of records as permitted by law. Additionally, an SBP participant may discontinue SBP participation during the 25th to 36th month after commencement of payment of retired pay; however, no refund of any premiums properly collected will be made.

b. Reference (c), Section XII (SBP Spouse Concurrence) specifies “The date of the spouse’s signature in item 32.b MUST NOT be before the date of the member’s signature in Block 30.b above. The spouse’s signature MUST be notarized.”

c. Petitioner married [REDACTED] on [REDACTED]

d. On 17 April 2018, Petitioner’s spouse signed DD Form 2656, Data for Payment of Retired Personnel “concurring with the SBP election” made by her spouse; however the notary witness signed on 20 April 2018.

e. On 20 April 2018, Petitioner signed DD Form 2656, Data for Payment of Retired Personnel electing to decline participation in SBP.

f. On 7 May 2018, Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) received Petitioner’s invalid DD Form 2656, Data for Payment of Retired Personnel.

g. Petitioner transferred to the Fleet Reserve effective 1 August 2018 and was automatically enrolled in SBP Spouse coverage but a beneficiary is not identified in HUNT system.

h. On 24 July 2021, Petitioner and spouse signed and submitted DD Form 2656-2, Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) Termination Request.

i. On 21 December 2021, Petitioner and spouse signed SBP Affidavit before a notary witness electing to decline SBP coverage.

CONCLUSION

Upon review and consideration of all the evidence of record, the Board finds the existence of an injustice warranting the following corrective action. The Board concluded Petitioner provided sufficient evidence to reflect his and spouse’s desire to decline SBP coverage prior to transferring to the Fleet Reserve. Although Petitioner did not complete the proper administrative requirements, the Board felt that under these circumstances, relief is warranted.

RECOMMENDATION

That Petitioner’s naval record be corrected, where appropriate, to show that:

Petitioner elected to decline participation in SBP with spouse concurrence prior to transferring to the Fleet Reserve effective 1 August 2018.

Note: DFAS will complete an audit of Petitioner’s pay records to determine the amount of premium refund.

A copy of this Report of Proceedings will be filed in Petitioner’s naval record.

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[REDACTED]

4. It is certified that a quorum was present at the Board's review and deliberations, and that the foregoing is a true and complete record of the Board's proceedings in the above-entitled matter.

5. Pursuant to the delegation of authority set out in Section 6(e) of the revised Procedures of the Board for Correction of Naval Records (32 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 723.6(e)), and having assured compliance with its provisions, it is hereby announced that the foregoing corrective action, taken under the authority of the reference, has been approved by the Board on behalf of the Secretary of the Navy.

2/3/2022

[REDACTED]

Deputy Director

[REDACTED]