



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

█  
Docket No: 7036-21

Ref: Signature Date



Dear █:

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 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.

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.

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, sitting in executive session, considered your application on 13 December 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, applicable statutes, regulations, and policies, to include the 25 July 2018 guidance from the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness regarding equity, injustice or clemency determinations (Wilkie Memo).

You enlisted in the Navy and began a period of active duty on 3 January 2002. On 15 January 2003, you received nonjudicial punishment (NJP) for wrongful possession of alcohol and underage drinking. On 18 April 2003, you began a period of unauthorized absence (UA) which lasted 68 days and resulted in your apprehension by civil authorities. On 7 July 2003, you submitted a request for a discharge in lieu of trial by court-martial. On 25 July 2003, your commanding officer recommended a trial by special court martial for a period of UA. On 19 September 2003, the discharge authority approved your request for discharge with an other than

honorable discharge characterization of service by reason of separation in lieu of trial by court martial. On 29 September 2003, you were discharged.

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 contentions that: (a) the nature of your mistakes was attributed to your fear of being away from your first child; (b) you were unaware of the consequences of your actions; and (c) you are not able to access your VA benefits as a result of the type of discharge you received. Based upon this review, the Board concluded these potentially mitigating factors were insufficient to warrant relief. Specifically, the Board determined that your repeated misconduct, as evidenced by your NJP, outweighed these mitigating factors. The Board noted you did not submit any documentation or advocacy letters to be considered. 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 the 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,

1/11/2022

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Executive Director  
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