



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

█  
Docket No: 7853-21  
Ref: Signature Date



Dear Petitioner:

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.

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 26 January 2022. 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 25 July 2018 guidance from the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness regarding equity, injustice or clemency determinations (Wilkie Memo).

You entered active duty with the Marine Corps on 25 March 1982. During the period from 19 April 1982 to 1 August 1983, you received three non-judicial punishments (NJP) for two specifications of disobeying a lawful order and for disobeying a lawful regulation. On 29 September 1983, a summary court-martial (SCM) convicted you of sleeping on post watch.

On 14 December 1983, a second SCM convicted you of sleeping on post and wrongful use of marijuana. Subsequently, you were notified of pending administrative separation action by reason of misconduct due to a pattern of misconduct. After waiving your rights, your commanding officer (CO) forwarded your package to the separation authority (SA) recommending your discharge by reason of misconduct due to a pattern of misconduct with and other than honorable (OTH) characterization of service. The SA approved the recommendation, and on 17 February 1984, you were so 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 desire to upgrade your discharge, contentions that you were young and made mistakes, that you tested positive for marijuana use a second time because you were retested too soon, and that you need Department of Veteran Affairs (DVA) benefits.

The Board noted that the evidence of record did not show that you were not responsible for your conduct or that you should not be held accountable for your actions. While the Board considered your age and lack of maturity at the time of your active duty service, they concluded it did not excuse or mitigate your misconduct. The Board also noted that there is no evidence in your record, and you submitted none, to support your contention that you were retested too soon for wrongful use of marijuana. Lastly, whether or not you are eligible for benefits is a matter under the cognizance of the DVA, and you should contact the nearest office of the DVA concerning your right to apply for benefits.

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 three NJPs and two SCM convictions, outweighed these mitigating factors. As a result, when weighing the seriousness of your misconduct against your active duty service, the Board concluded that the preponderance of the evidence supports a finding that your conduct was a significant departure from that expected from a Marine and merits an Other than Honorable characterization of service. 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,

2/4/2022

