



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

Docket No. 2260-22  
Ref: Signature Date

Dear [REDACTED]:

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 case on its merits. A three-member panel of the Board, sitting in executive session, considered your application on 16 June 2022. 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. In addition, the Board considered the advisory opinion by Bureau of Medicine and Surgery letter 1210 Ser M1/22UM10007 of 27 April 2022<sup>1</sup> which was previously provided to you for comment.

On 9 May 2009, you were awarded a degree of Doctor of Philosophy from University of [REDACTED]

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<sup>1</sup> "Per 10 U.S.C. Section 1552 and SECNAVINST 5420.193, after careful review, the request for entry grade credit is returned recommending disapproval.

[REDACTED] was commissioned into the Health Professions Scholarship Program (HPSP) on 11 June 2014. He received his Doctor of Medicine degree on 12 May 2018 and was superseded to the rank of LT on that date. [REDACTED] requested entry grade credit for a Doctor of Philosophy degree from University of [REDACTED] for Biochemistry awarded on 09 May 2009.

DoDI 6000.13 of 30 Dec 2015, incorporating CH1 of 3 May 2016 was released and was effective immediately. DoDI 6000.13, enclosure 3, paragraph (I)(c)(3) limits constructive credit to advance degrees required for appointment in the professional specialty for which the officer is entering. Implementation occurred immediately and affected all those graduating after 30 December 2015. Subsequently, no graduating medical students after the implementation of DoDI 6000.13 received constructive credit for advanced degrees other than the degree for which they were accessed."

On 11 June 2014, you signed an Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarship Program (AFHPSP) Medical Students, Dental Students, and Medical Service Corps Students (1975X, 1989X, and 1995X) Service Agreement. You subsequently signed a NAVPERS 1000/4 (Officer Appointment Acceptance and Oath of Office) appointing you an Ensign in the inactive U.S. Navy Reserve with a date of rank of 27 May 2014.

On 12 May 2018, you were awarded a Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of █  
█ You were issued an entry grade credit worksheet crediting you with 4 years for you initial MD or DO degree.

On 21 May 2018, you signed a NAVPERS 1000/4 (Officer Appointment Acceptance and Oath of Office) appointing you a Lieutenant in the active U.S. Navy with a date of rank of 12 May 2018.

You requested entry grade credit for Doctor of Philosophy degree from University of █ for Biochemistry awarded on 9 May 2009. The Board, in its review of your entire record and application, carefully weighed all potentially mitigating factors, to include your assertions. However, the Board concluded that effective 30 December 2015<sup>2</sup>, no additional credit may be given for more than one advanced degree in a single field or closely related field. You received 4 years Entry Grade Credit for the degree for which you were accessed. In this connection, the Board substantially concurred with the comments contained in the advisory opinion.

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,

6/23/2022

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Deputy Director

Signed by: █

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<sup>2</sup> In accordance with DoDI 6000.13, published on 30 December 2015, one year of constructive service credit will be granted for each year of graduate level education toward the first professional degree completed when that degree is required for appointment in the professional specialty being entered. The maximum number of years of constructive service credit that may be awarded under this provision is the number of years of graduate level education required by a majority of institutions that award degrees in that professional field. Credit for master's and doctorate degrees in a health profession other than those listed in paragraph 1c(3)(a) of this enclosure may be awarded based on actual full-time equivalent education of up to 2 years for a master's degree and up to 4 years for a doctorate degree. Credit may not include time spent in attainment of baccalaureate or other lower degrees. No additional credit may be given for more than one advanced degree in a single field or closely related field. The total credit allowed for both a master's and a doctorate degree may not exceed the maximum allowed for a doctorate.