



recommendation for administrative discharge and directed your OTH discharge from the Navy. On 8 January 1988, you were discharged from the Navy with an OTH characterization of service by reason of misconduct due to drug abuse.

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 character of service and contention that you are experiencing some “undiagnosed mental issues” and you do not have adequate medical insurance to properly receive the greatly needed medical care. For purposes of clemency consideration, the Board noted you did not provide supporting documentation describing post-service accomplishments or advocacy letter.

As part of the Board’s review process, a qualified mental health professional reviewed your contentions and the available records and issued an AO dated 15 July 2022. The AO noted in pertinent part:

There is no evidence that he was diagnosed with a mental health condition in military service, or that he exhibited any psychological symptoms or behavioral changes indicative of a diagnosable mental health condition. He has provided no medical evidence in support of his claims. Unfortunately, his personal statement is not sufficiently detailed to establish clinical symptoms or provide a nexus with his misconduct. Additional records (e.g., post-service mental health records describing the Petitioner’s diagnosis, symptoms, and their specific link to his misconduct) would aid in rendering an alternate opinion.

The AO concluded, “[b]ased on the available evidence, it is my considered clinical opinion there is insufficient evidence of a mental health condition that may be attributed to military service. There is insufficient evidence his misconduct could be attributed to a mental health condition.”

Based upon this review, the Board concluded your potentially mitigating factors were insufficient to warrant relief. Specifically, the Board determined that your misconduct, as evidenced by your NJP, outweighed these mitigating factors. In making this finding, the Board considered the seriousness of your misconduct and the fact it involved a drug offense. The Board determined that illegal drug use by a Sailor is contrary to Navy core values and policy, renders such Sailors unfit for duty, and poses an unnecessary risk to the safety of their fellow Sailors. The Board also noted that there is no provision of federal law or in Navy/Marine Corps regulations that allows for a discharge to be automatically upgraded after a specified number of months or years and, absent a material error or injustice, declined to summarily upgrade a discharge solely for the purpose of facilitating veterans’ benefits, or enhancing educational or employment opportunities. Finally, the Board concurred with the AO and determined that there is insufficient evidence of a mental health condition that may be attributed to military service, and there is insufficient evidence your misconduct could be attributed to a mental health condition. As a result, the Board determined your conduct constituted a significant departure from that expected of a Sailor and continues to warrant an OTH characterization. While the Board empathized with your current medical condition, after applying liberal consideration, the Board did not find evidence of an error or injustice that warrants upgrading your characterization

of service or granting clemency in the form of an upgraded characterization of service. Accordingly, given the totality of the circumstances, the Board determined 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,

9/15/2022

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Executive Director

Signed by: █