



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

█  
Docket No: 4085-22  
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 24 June 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).

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.

You enlisted in the Navy and began a period of active service on 17 May 2017. According to your application, you entered a period of unauthorized absence (UA) that resulted in your administrative separation from the Navy.

Unfortunately, the documents pertinent to your administrative separation are not in your official military personnel file (OMPF). Notwithstanding, the Board relies on a presumption of regularity to support the official actions of public officers and, in the absence of substantial evidence to the contrary (as is the case at present), will presume that they have properly discharged their official duties. Your Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD

Form 214), reveals that you were separated from the Navy on 29 October 2020 with an General (Under Honorable Conditions) characterization of service, your narrative reason for separation is "Misconduct – Serious Offense," your separation code is "JKQ," and your reenlistment code is "RE-4."

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 change your reenlistment code or to be reinstated into the Navy and contentions that extenuating circumstances that led to your absence during the pandemic, that you attempted to return to the ship but, due to COVID restriction, you were delayed, and that you believe that it was your ship and not the Navy that wanted you separated. For purposes of clemency consideration, the Board noted you did not provide supporting documentation describing post-service accomplishments, or advocacy letters.

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 admission of UA, outweighed these mitigating factors. In making this finding, the Board considered the seriousness of your misconduct and weighed it against your record of service. Unfortunately, the Board concluded that your discharge due to the commission of a serious offense supports the Navy's decision to issue you a reentry code of RE-4. In the Board's opinion, regardless of the mitigating evidence you presented involving the loss of your family members, the Board found the Navy's decision to be reasonable in light of your misconduct. While the Board was sympathetic to your desires to reenlist in the Navy and the circumstances involving the loss of your family members, the Board was not persuaded by your arguments in mitigation. Ultimately, the Board agreed with your assertion that you had other options than to entered a period of UA, found that you committed serious misconduct intentionally, and that your misconduct made you unsuitable for further military service. After applying liberal consideration, the Board did not find evidence of an error or injustice that warrants changing your reentry code or granting clemency in your case. 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,

7/19/2022

