



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

[REDACTED]  
Docket No. 5853-22  
Ref: Signature Date

From: Chairman, Board for Correction of Naval Records  
To: Secretary of the Navy

Subj: REVIEW OF NAVAL RECORD ICO [REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] USMC RET

Ref: (a) Title 10 U.S.C. § 1552  
(b) DODFMR, Vol 7B, Chp 43

Encl: (1) DD Form 149 w/attachments  
(2) Subject's naval record

1. Pursuant to the provisions of reference (a), Subject, hereinafter referred to as Petitioner, filed enclosure (1) with the Board for Correction of Naval Records (Board), requesting that his naval record be corrected to reflect declined participation in the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP).

2. The Board, consisting of [REDACTED], and [REDACTED] reviewed Petitioner's allegations of error and injustice on 24 August 2022 and, pursuant to its regulations, determined that the corrective action indicated below should be taken on the available evidence of record. Documentary material considered by the Board consisted of the enclosures, relevant portions of Petitioner's naval record, and applicable statutes, regulations, and policies.

3. The Board, having reviewed all the facts of record pertaining to Petitioner's allegations of error and injustice, found that, before applying to this Board, he exhausted all administrative remedies available under existing law and regulations within the Department of the Navy. The Board made the following findings:

a. In accordance with reference (b), SBP elections must be made prior to retired pay becoming payable and the election to participate in or decline SBP is irrevocable. If not all requirements for an election needing the spouse's concurrence have been satisfied prior to retirement, for whatever reason, full spouse costs, and coverage will be implemented, regardless of any request by the member to do otherwise. Any change in SBP election subsequent to retirement will be done through an administrative correction of records permitted by law.

b. Petitioner married [REDACTED] on 1 September 2001.

c. On 17 May 2021, Petitioner signed DD Form 2656, Data for Payment of Retired Personnel electing not to participate in SBP coverage.

d. On 17 May 2021, Petitioner's spouse signed DD Form 2656, Data for Payment of Retired personnel before a notary witness concurring with spouse's SBP election.

e. Petitioner transferred to the Retired List effective 1 August 2021 and SBP Spouse coverage premium deductions began.

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f. On 5 August 2022, Petitioner signed “Declining Participation in the Survivor Benefit Plan” statement before a notary witness; Spouse signed “Spouse Concurrence for Declination of the Survivor Benefit Plan” statement the same day before a notary witness.

g. On 17 August 2022, Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) confirmed a DD Form 2656, Data for Payment of Retired Personnel was never received for Petitioner, resulting in his automatic enrollment in SBP coverage.

h. On 26 August 2022, Petitioner and spouse signed SBP Affidavit before a notary witness requesting to decline SBP coverage.

#### CONCLUSION

Upon review and consideration of all the evidence of record, the Board finds the existence of an injustice warranting the following corrective action. The Board concluded Petitioner provided sufficient evidence to reflect his and spouse’s desire to decline SBP coverage prior to retiring from active duty. Although the proper administrative requirements were not completed, the Board felt that under these circumstances, relief is warranted.

#### RECOMMENDATION

That Petitioner’s naval record be corrected, where appropriate, to show that:

Petitioner elected to decline participation in SBP with spouse concurrence prior to transferring to the Retired List effective 1 August 2021.

Note: DFAS will complete an audit of Petitioner’s pay records to determine the amount of premium refund.

A copy of this Report of Proceedings will be filed in Petitioner’s naval record.

4. It is certified that a quorum was present at the Board’s review and deliberations, and that the foregoing is a true and complete record of the Board’s proceedings in the above-entitled matter.

5. Pursuant to the delegation of authority set out in Section 6(e) of the revised Procedures of the Board for Correction of Naval Records (32 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 723.6(e)), and having assured compliance with its provisions, it is hereby announced that the foregoing corrective action, taken under the authority of the reference, has been approved by the Board on behalf of the Secretary of the Navy.

9/14/2022

[REDACTED]  
Deputy Director  
[REDACTED]