



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

█  
Docket No: 8690-22/  
4450-22  
Ref: Signature Date

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█  
█

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.

Because your application was submitted with new evidence not previously considered, the Board found it in the interest of justice to review your application. A three-member panel of the Board, sitting in executive session on 7 December 2022, has carefully examined your current request. 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 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 previously applied to this Board for a discharge upgrade but were denied on 3 August 2022. The Board determined the mitigation evidence you submitted in support of your request was insufficient to offset the seriousness of your misconduct, which resulted in non-judicial punishment (NJP).

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 for a discharge upgrade and contention that your misconduct was based on a mistake which you regret. For purposes of clemency and equity consideration, the Board noted you provided advocacy letters.

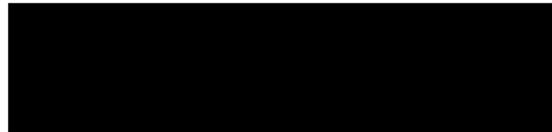
After thorough review, the Board concluded these potentially mitigating factors were insufficient to warrant relief. Specifically, the Board determined your misconduct, as evidenced by your NJP, which included a lengthy period of unauthorized absence, outweighed these mitigating factors. In making this finding, the Board considered the seriousness of your misconduct and the likely

negative effect your conduct had on the good order and discipline of your command. The Board also noted that there is no evidence in your record, and you submitted none, to support your contention that your misconduct was a mistake. The Board noted that you were apprehended by civil authorities during your period of unauthorized absence and if your UA was based on a mistake, you had the opportunity to turn yourself into military authorities prior to your apprehension. As a result, the Board concluded your conduct constituted a significant departure from that expected of a Sailor and continues to warrant an OTH characterization. While the Board took into consideration your character letters and commended your post-discharge good character, even in light of the Wilkie Memo and reviewing the record holistically, the Board did not find evidence of an error or injustice that warrants upgrading your characterization of service or granting an upgraded characterization of service as a matter of clemency or equity. 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,

1/3/2023

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Executive Director

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