



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

█  
Docket No. 9118-22  
Ref: Signature Date

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Dear █:

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.

A three-member panel of the Board, sitting in executive session, considered your application on 25 May 2023. 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 the Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery of 7 April 2023, and your response to the opinion.

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.

On 19 May 2013, you were awarded a degree of Master of Science (Biomedical Sciences) by █ University Health Sciences Center.

On 24 February 2014, you signed an Officer Appointment Acceptance and Oath of Office (NAVPERS 1000/4) in the inactive U.S. Naval Reserve as an Ensign with a Permanent grade date/Present grade date of 18 February 2014 and a designator code of 1975 (An Unrestricted Line Officer under instruction in the Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarship Program (Medical/Osteopathic)).

On 24 February 2014, you signed an Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarship Program Medical Students, Dental Students, and Medical Service Corps Students (1975X, 1985X, and 1995X) Service Agreement.

On 19 April 2017, you submitted a DD Form 149 (Docket No. 3568-17) to this Board requesting entry grade credit. Your request was denied by the Board on 9 March 2018.

On 19 May 2017, you were awarded a degree of Doctor of Medicine (Medicine) by ██████████ ██████████ Health Sciences Center.

On 20 May 2017, you signed an Officer Appointment Acceptance and Oath of Office (NAVPERS 1000/4) in the active U.S. Navy as a Lieutenant with a Permanent grade date/Present grade date of 20 May 2017 and a designator code of 2100 (A Medical Corps Officer).

On 21 January 2020, you submitted a DD Form 149 (Docket No. 513-20) to this Board requesting entry grade credit. Your request was denied by the Board on 16 July 2020.

You requested Entry Grade Credit for your Master of Science Degree in Biomedical Sciences with a concentration in Education, Medical; the Board, in its review of your entire record and application, carefully weighed all potentially mitigating factors, to include your assertions. You assert that OPNAVINST 1120.4B is the governing instruction for entry grade credit in your case. Furthermore, you stated that from 24 February 2014 through 30 December 2015 you were a “prospective Medical Corps officer. These dates from February 2014 and December 2015 were within the active timeframe of OPNAVINST 1120.4B prior to DODI 6000.13 coming into effect”. However, the Board concluded that DoDI 6000.13<sup>1</sup> of 30 December 2015 is the correct reference because you were still a medical student in the reserve component when this reference was published. You were not appointed in the active U.S. Navy until 20 May 2017. In accordance with DoDI 6000.13, 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. Furthermore, no additional credit may be given for more than one advanced degree in a single field or closely related field. You were not appointed on the basis of your Master’s degree, therefore, no constructive credit for that degree will be awarded. In this connection, the Board substantially concurred with the comments contained in the advisory opinion.

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<sup>1</sup> In accordance with DoDI 6000.13, 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.

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,

6/5/2023

