



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, will presume that they have properly discharged their official duties. Based on the information contained on your Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214), you were separated from the Navy, on 23 July 1999, with an "Other Than Honorable Conditions (OTH)" characterization of service, your narrative reason for separation is "Misconduct," your reenlistment code is "RE-4," and your separation code is "HKA," which corresponds to misconduct due to pattern of misconduct. Your DD Form 214 also notes that you were discharged in absentia.

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 discharge character of service and contentions that your military records are not clear and defined for the reasons for why you received an OTH discharge, there was no information given to you as to the why, nor what rights you may have had, and there is no reason or record as to why you were discharged in absentia. For purposes of clemency and equity consideration, the Board noted you did not provide supporting documentation describing post-service accomplishments or advocacy letters.

After thorough 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 and SCM conviction, outweighed these mitigating factors. In making this finding, the Board considered the seriousness of your misconduct and concluded your misconduct showed a complete disregard for military authority and regulations. The Board also considered the negative impact your conduct likely had on the good order and discipline of your command. Ultimately, the Board found that the record clearly reflected that your active duty misconduct was intentional and willful. The Board also determined that the evidence of record did not demonstrate that you were not responsible for your conduct or that you should otherwise not be held accountable for your actions. Finally, absent evidence to the contrary, the Board relied on the presumption of regularity to determine that your discharge processing was done in accordance with applicable regulations and proper as issued. The Board noted that you did not provide any evidence, other than your statement, to substantiate your contention that you were erroneously discharged. 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. 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 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,

1/20/2023



Executive Director

