



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

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Docket No. 2625-23
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 13 December 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 contained in Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED) letter 5400 Ser N13/23UN1-1503 of 18 May 2023 and your response to the opinions. During quality assurance review, it was determined that BUMED letter 7220 Ser N1/23UN11507 of 30 November 2023 was not provided to you for review. This advisory opinion was provided to you on 18 December 2023 and your response to the opinion was received on 15 January 2024. Therefore, on 19 January 2024 the Board reconvened to reconsider your application in its entirety and to consider your response to the opinion.

You requested to receive 3 years constructive service credit for your Doctor of Philosophy degree. The Board, in its review of your entire record and application, carefully weighed all potentially mitigating factors, to include your assertions. The Board concluded that you received the maximum amount of constructive service credit upon completion of your Doctor of Medicine degree in accordance with Department of Defense Instruction (DODI) 6000.13. Specifically, DODI 6000.13, paragraph 1.c.(3) indicates, constructive credit is limited for advance degrees required for appointment in the professional specialty for which entering. Paragraph 1.c.(4) states, "credit will be awarded for any period of advanced education in a health profession (other than medicine and dentistry) beyond the baccalaureate degree level that exceeds the basic education required for the appointment, if such advanced education will be directly used by the Military Department concerned."

A review of your record reflects your entry grade credit was awarded per DODI 6000.13, paragraph 1.c.(3), however paragraph 1.c.(4) does not apply to you as your health profession is medical, which is specifically omitted. The Board determined the Chief of Naval Operations Instruction 1120.4B does not apply at the time of matriculating into the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences to award entry grade credit for your degree requested. Lastly, the Board disagreed with your assertion that there has been precedence of recognition of the credit for others in your program. The three cases you provided as evidence do not show proof of credit awarded and are only advisory opinions that are not binding on this Board. In this connection, the Board substantially concurred with the comments contained in the advisory opinions.

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.

In the absence of sufficient new evidence for reconsideration, the decision of the Board is final, and your only recourse would be to seek relief, at no cost to the Board, from a court of appropriate jurisdiction.

Sincerely,

1/20/2024

