



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. 5675-23
Ref: Signature Date



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.

Although your application was not filed in a timely manner, the Board found it in the interest of justice to waive the statute of limitations and consider your application on its merits. A three-member panel of the Board, sitting in executive session, considered your application on 16 October 2023. The names and votes of the panel members 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 enlisted in the Navy and commenced active duty on 17 June 1981. On 19 May 1982, you commenced a period of unauthorized absence (UA) which ended in your surrender to authorities on 19 July 1982. On 18 August 1982, you were convicted of 61 days of UA at Summary Court-Martial (SCM) and sentenced to reduction-in-rank, confinement at hard-labor, and forfeiture of pay.

On 22 October 1982, you commenced a period of unauthorized absence (UA) which ended in your surrender to authorities on 3 January 1983. On 14 March 1983, you were convicted of 73 days of UA at Special Court-Martial (SPCM) and sentenced to confinement at hard-labor.

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 on 7 April 1983 with an “Under Other Than Honorable Conditions (OTH)” characterization of service, your narrative reason for separation is “Commission of a Serious Offense,” your reentry code is “RE-4,” and your separation code is “HKQ,” which corresponds to misconduct – commission of a serious offense.

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 characterization of service, your expression of remorse, and your contention of post-service recovery efforts. 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 SCM and SPCM, outweighed these mitigating factors. In making this finding, the Board considered the seriousness of your misconduct and the fact it involved extended periods of unauthorized absence. The Board also considered the likely negative impact your repeated misconduct had on the good order and discipline of your command. Finally, the Board noted that you were given the opportunity to address your conduct issues but you continued to commit misconduct, which ultimately led to your administrative discharge. As a result, the Board concluded your conduct constituted a significant departure from that expected of a service member and continues to warrant an OTH characterization. While the Board appreciates your expression of remorse and commends 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 granting you the relief you requested or granting relief 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,

10/30/2023

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Executive Director

Signed by: █