



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. 7496-23
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.

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 20 September 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 began a period of active duty on 30 July 2001. On 24 September 2002, you received non-judicial punishment (NJP) for wrongfully consuming alcoholic beverages while under the age of 21. On 27 March 2003, you received a second NJP for failure to obey a lawful written order issued by the commanding officer (CO), by wrongfully consuming alcoholic beverages. On 9 April 2004, you received a third NJP for false official statement and wrongful use of marijuana. Subsequently, you were notified that you were being recommended for administrative discharge from the Navy by reason of misconduct due to commission of a serious offense and drug abuse. You elected your procedural right to consult with military counsel. After consulting with military counsel, you waived your right to present your case to an administrative discharge board (ADB). Your CO forwarded your administrative separation package to the separation authority (SA) recommending your administrative discharge from the Navy with an Other Than Honorable (OTH) characterization of service. The SA approved the recommendation for administrative discharge, and directed your OTH discharge from the Navy.

On 7 May 2004, you were discharged from the Navy with an OTH characterization of service by reason of misconduct due to drug abuse.

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 you were questioned by an investigator and informed that you failed a urinalysis without being presented with any evidence that you failed a urinalysis, you were under duress from the investigator and signed paperwork knowing that you did not fail a urinalysis, your discharge was a huge misstep in your life but you have tried not to let it hinder your growth as a person both professionally and personally, you have advanced in the industry to the highest license and would like to not have the blemish of your discharge looming over you. For purposes of clemency and equity consideration, the Board noted you provided a personal statement on your behalf, advocacy letters describing your post-service character, and documentation describing post-service accomplishments.

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 three NJPs, outweighed these mitigating factors. In making this finding, the Board considered the seriousness of your misconduct and the fact it involved a drug offense. The Board determined that illegal drug use by a service member is contrary to military core values and policy, renders such members unfit for duty, and poses an unnecessary risk to the safety of their fellow service members. Additionally, the Board noted that marijuana use in any form is still against Department of Defense regulations and not permitted for recreational use while serving in the military. The Board also considered the likely negative impact your conduct had on the good order and discipline of your command. Further, the Board found that your misconduct was intentional and made you unsuitable for continued naval service. Furthermore, 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. The Board noted that you were provided multiple opportunities to correct your deficiencies during your service, however, you continued to commit additional misconduct. Finally, regarding your contentions, the Board noted that you did not provide any evidence, other than your statement, to substantiate your contentions. 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 carefully considered the evidence you submitted in mitigation and commends your post-discharge accomplishments, 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. Ultimately, the Board concluded the mitigation evidence you provided was insufficient to outweigh the seriousness of your misconduct. 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,

10/5/2023

