



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. 8231-23
Ref: Signature Date

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Dear Petitioner:

This is in reference to your application for correction of your naval record pursuant to Title 10, United States Code, Section 1552. 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 case on its merits. A three-member panel of the Board, sitting in executive session, considered your application on 13 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 to the Kurta Memo and 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 service on 30 March 1982. The relevant facts with respect to your service remain the same; specifically, the social security number (SSN) which you yourself provided at the time of your initial entry was consistently used throughout your period of service, to include at the time of your Other Than Honorable discharge for misconduct due to drug abuse nearly 40 years ago on 25 March 1985.

You previously applied to Naval Personnel Command (NPC) to change your SSN; however, your request was denied, noting that your record reflects the use of the same SSN throughout the entirety of your naval service.

Your previous application to this Board was considered on 31 August 2022 in Docket Number 5471-22, wherein the Board determined that the evidence you submitted in support of your request was insufficient to warrant relief based on the poor legibility of the copy which you provided of your SSN card as well as the lack of verification from the Social Security Administration (SSA) to confirm the validity of the number associated with your requested

correction. In advising you of its decision, the Board noted that verification of your SSN is available online, and that individuals may request instant verification letters online through their personal *my* Social Security account or by contacting the SSA directly to submit such request.

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 correct or change the SSN listed on your Certificate of Discharge or Release from Active Duty (DD Form 214). The Board noted that you provided a legible copy of your social security card but no verification letter from the SSA.

After thorough review, the Board concluded that the evidence submitted in support of your request was insufficient to warrant the requested relief. The Board found that it is of the utmost importance to ensure the validity of the documents supporting a change of a service member's SSN prior to approving such change and concluded that, although you have submitted what appears to be a more recent and somewhat more legible copy of your SSN card, this evidence alone is not sufficient to verify the change to the SSN which you request. The Board reiterates the importance of obtaining reliable verification, such as that provided by the SSA, in submitting requests for such changes. Accordingly, given the totality of the circumstances, the Board determined that your request does not merit relief.

The Board wanted to reiterate that Social Security verifications are available online. The public can get an instant verification letter online with a personal *my* Social Security account or you may call the social security administration toll-free to request a letter by mail.

You are entitled to have the Board reconsider its decision upon the 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 is attached 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,

11/2/2023

