



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. 134-24
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 application on its merits. A three-member panel of the Board, sitting in executive session, considered your application on 5 February 2024. 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, 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 10 April 1973. On 10 February 1975, you began a period of unauthorized absence (UA) which lasted nine-days and resulted in nonjudicial punishment (NJP) on 20 February 1975. On 5 January 1976, you began a second period of UA which lasted two-days and resulted in your second NJP on 13 January 1976. On 22 March 1976, you received a third NJP for a period of UA. On the same date, you began another period of UA which lasted 17 days. On 7 May 1977, you were discharged with a General (Under Honorable Conditions) discharge characterization of service by reason of released from active duty and transferred to the Naval Reserves. Your final military behavior trait was 2.97.

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 for a discharge upgrade and contentions that: (a) you were late and UA but never missed ship movement or refused to return, and (b) you have learned from your mistakes and have corrected them to become a better person. 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 these potentially mitigating factors were insufficient to warrant relief. Specifically, the Board determined that your misconduct, as evidenced by your NJPs, outweighed these mitigating factors. In making this finding, the Board considered the seriousness of your misconduct and the likely negative impact it had on the good order and discipline of your unit. Further, the Board found that your conduct showed a complete disregard for military authority and regulations. Additionally, the Board unexpectedly absenting yourself from your command placed an undue burden on your chain of command and fellow service members, and likely negatively impacted mission accomplishment. Finally, the Board noted your final conduct trait average was insufficient to qualify for a fully Honorable characterization of service. The Board determined your assigned trait average was appropriate in light of your record of misconduct.

As a result, the Board concluded significant negative aspects of your service outweigh the positive aspects and continues to warrant a General (Under Honorable Conditions) 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 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 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 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,

2/27/2024

