



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 administrative counseling and non-judicial punishments, outweighed these mitigating factors. In making this finding, the Board considered the seriousness of your misconduct and concluded your misconduct showed a complete disregard for military authority and regulations. 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 opportunities to correct your conduct deficiencies during your service, however, you continued to commit misconduct. Your administrative counseling, multiple periods of unauthorized absence, and violation of orders and regulations, not only showed a pattern of misconduct but were likely sufficiently serious to negatively affect the good order and discipline of your command. Therefore, the Board found your record of misconduct more than sufficient to support your administrative separation and assigned characterization of service. Finally, regarding your contention, decisions reached by the VA to determine if a former service members rate certain VA benefits do not affect previous discharge decisions made by the Navy since the criteria used by the VA in determining whether a former service member is eligible for benefits are different than that used by the Navy when determining a member's discharge characterization of service. As a result, the Board determined your conduct constituted a significant departure from that expected of a service member and continues to warrant an other than honorable characterization. While the Board carefully considered the evidence you submitted in mitigation, 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,

3/1/2024

