



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF NAVAL RECORDS  
2 NAVY ANNEX  
WASHINGTON DC 20370-5100

JRE  
Docket No: 2520-01  
22 April 2002



This is in reference to your application for correction of your naval record pursuant to the provisions of title 10 of the United States Code, section 1552.

A three-member panel of the Board for Correction of Naval Records, sitting in executive session, considered your application on 11 April 2002. Your allegations of error and injustice were reviewed in accordance with administrative regulations and procedures applicable to the proceedings of this Board. Documentary material considered by the Board consisted of your application, together with all material submitted in support thereof, your naval record and applicable statutes, regulations and policies.

After careful and conscientious consideration of the entire record, the Board found that the evidence submitted was insufficient to establish the existence of probable material error or injustice. The Board noted that on 10 October 2000, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) rating officials determined that you had a hearing loss which was partially the result of acoustic trauma. Those officials also concluded that you had been exposed to acoustic trauma while serving in the Navy, based on your receipt of the Combat Action Ribbon and Vietnam Service Medal "which is indicative of combat exposure". The Board concluded that those determinations were insufficient to warrant amending your naval record to show that you were injured during combat. Although it is possible that your tinnitus and hearing loss may be related to noise exposure during your period of naval service, which ended in 1974, there is no evidence of any specific instance of acoustic trauma which required medical evaluation or treatment. In addition, the Board noted that you were found to have normal hearing acuity when you underwent your pre-separation physical examination.

In view of the foregoing, your application has been denied. The names and votes of the members of the panel will be furnished upon request.

It is regretted that the circumstances of your case are such that favorable action cannot be taken. You are entitled to have the Board reconsider its decision upon submission of new

and material evidence or other matter not previously 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,

W. DEAN PFEIFFER  
Executive Director