



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

WMP

Docket No: 3643-02
19 September 2002

[REDACTED]

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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 18 September 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 found that you enlisted in the Navy on 3 August 1987 at age 18. Your record reflects that you served without incident until you were diagnosed with alcohol dependence, and admitted for in-patient alcohol rehabilitation treatment on 15 July 1988.

On 9 August 1988 you were dropped from the alcohol treatment program due to your failure to actively participate. You were returned to your command with a recommendation for administrative separation by reason of alcohol rehabilitation failure.

On 21 September 1988 administrative separation action was initiated by reason of alcohol abuse rehabilitation failure. You were advised of and waived all of your procedural rights.

On 22 September 1988 you were advised that in-patient alcohol treatment at the nearest Veteran's Administration (VA) hospital to your home of record or place of acceptance was available prior to discharge, however, you declined such treatment.

On 6 October 1988, you received an honorable discharge by reason of alcohol abuse rehabilitation failure and were assigned an RE-4 reenlistment code.

In its review of your application the Board carefully weighed all potentially mitigating factors such as your youth and immaturity, and your contentions that you were discharged due to a one-time occurrence, and you no longer have issues with alcohol. However, the Board found your record clearly supported your discharge for alcohol abuse rehabilitation failure based on your lack of participation in the treatment program. Further, regulations require the assignment of an RE-4 reenlistment code to an individual discharged for alcohol abuse rehabilitation failure. Accordingly, 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