



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

TRG
Docket No: 7493-01
21 February 2002

Dear [REDACTED]:

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 20 February 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.

You enlisted in the Navy on 26 December 1995 at age 20. Subsequently, you were referred for a psychiatric evaluation because of your feelings of uncontrolled anger. You reported a history of legal altercations and numerous truancy violations, often due to fighting and authority problems. It was noted that there were numerous scars on your arms and hands due to self-mutilation. The psychiatrist diagnosed you with adjustment and personality disorders and disqualified you from service in the nuclear field and submarine duty. An assessment of your compatibility for continued service was deferred. On 16 May 1996, you were recommended for an administrative separation by a different psychiatrist because he believed that you posed a continuing risk to harm yourself or others if you were retained in the Navy.

Based on the diagnosed personality disorder, you were processed for an administrative separation. The discharge package is not filed in your record, however, the Board assumed that in connection with this processing, the separation authority reviewed your case and directed an entry level separation. The DD Form 214 shows that you were so separated on 28 June 1996. At

that time, you were not recommended for reenlistment and were assigned an RE-4 reenlistment code.

You state, in effect, that you were having problems because of the difficulty of nuclear power training, and that you now have learned to handle stress. You contend that the psychiatrist did not think that you had a personality disorder, but only made that diagnosis so that you could leave the Navy. However, there is no evidence in the record, and you have submitted none, to support your contentions that you do not have a personality disorder and were improperly diagnosed. The medical record shows that you were diagnosed with a personality disorder by two different psychiatrists. The Board concluded that you were properly discharged based on a diagnosed personality disorder.

Regulations allow for the assignment of an RE-4 reenlistment code when an individual is separated based on a diagnosed personality disorder, and such a code is normally assigned when there is a finding that an individual is at risk to harm himself or others. Since you have been treated no differently than others in your situation, the Board could not find an error or injustice in the assignment of the RE-4 reenlistment code.

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