



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

JRE  
Docket No. 10641-02  
6 May 2003

[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 1 May 2003. 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 27 July 1972. You appeared before a medical board on 7 May 1973, and were given a diagnosis of syncopal episodes. The medical board report indicates that you disclosed that you began experiencing syncopal episodes about eighteen months earlier, prior to your enlistment. Accordingly, your condition was classified as existed prior to enlistment (EPTE), and not aggravated by service. As the episodes did not appear to be severe, the medical board recommended that you be placed on limited duty for a period of six months. On 7 May 1973, you declined to submit a statement in rebuttal to the findings and recommendation of the medical board. Shortly after being placed on limited duty, you

had three more syncopal episodes, and were referred to a second medical board. That Board, which met on 12 July 1973, determined that you were not fit for duty, and recommended that you be discharged without entitlement to disability benefits administered by the Department of the Navy. After being advised of the finding and recommendation of the medical board, you declined to submit a statement in rebuttal thereto. In addition, you waived your right to appear before a physical evaluation board, and requested that you be discharged as soon as possible, without entitlement to disability benefits. You were discharged in accordance with the approved findings and recommendation of the medical board, and your request, on 27 July 1972. Following your discharge, the Department of Veterans Affairs denied your request for service connection for syncopal episodes.

The Board rejected your unsubstantiated contention that you did not suffer from syncopal episodes prior to your enlistment. As indicated above, you previously admitted that the episodes began before you enlisted in the Navy. 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