



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

TJR
Docket No: 3615-10
9 February 2011

[REDACTED]

This is in reference to your application for correction of your naval record pursuant to the provisions of Title 10, 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 8 February 2011. The names and votes of the members of the panel will be furnished upon request. 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 the evidence submitted was insufficient to establish the existence of probable material error or injustice.

You enlisted in the Navy on 4 November 1985 at age 17 and began a period of active duty on 16 April 1986. You served without disciplinary incident until 20 November 1987 when you received nonjudicial punishment (NJP) for wrongful use of controlled substances, specifically, amphetamines and marijuana. The punishment imposed was a \$738 forfeiture of pay, restriction for 45 days, and reduction to paygrade E-2.

On 9 December 1987 you were notified of pending administrative separation action by reason of misconduct due to drug abuse. At that time you waived your right to consult with legal counsel and to present your case to an administrative discharge board (ADB). On 21 December 1987 your commanding officer recommended discharge under other than honorable conditions by reason of misconduct due to drug abuse. This recommendation stated, in part, that although you were awarded NJP on only one occasion, the severity of your offenses directly undermined the Navy's policy on "Zero Tolerance." On 25 December 1987 the discharge authority

approved this recommendation and directed your commanding officer to issue you an other than honorable discharge by reason of misconduct due to drug abuse, and on 15 January 1988, you were so discharged.

The Board, in its review of your entire record and application, carefully weighed all potentially mitigating factors, such as your youth and desire to upgrade your discharge. It also considered your assertion that you believe the punishment of the NJP and subsequent discharge was too harsh. Nevertheless, the Board concluded these factors were not sufficient to warrant recharacterization of your discharge because of the seriousness of your drug-related misconduct which resulted in NJP. Further, you were given an opportunity to defend yourself, but waived your procedural right to present your case to an ADB. Accordingly, your application has been denied.

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