



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF NAVAL RECORDS
701 S. COURTHOUSE ROAD, SUITE 1001
ARLINGTON, VA 22204-2490

TJR
Docket No: 2648-13
19 February 2014

[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 19 February 2014. 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 reenlisted in the Navy on 4 July 1985 after more than three years of prior satisfactory service. You continued to serve without disciplinary incident until 18 February 1988, when you received nonjudicial punishment (NJP) for two periods of unauthorized absence (UA) totalling 16 days, disrespect, two periods of failure to go to your appointed place of duty, four periods of absence from your appointed place of duty, and wrongful use of cocaine.

Subsequently, you were processed for an administrative separation by reason of misconduct due to drug abuse. After waiving your procedural right to consult with legal counsel and to present your case to an administrative discharge board (ADB), on 21 March 1988, your commanding officer recommended discharge under other than honorable conditions by reason of misconduct due to drug abuse. The discharge authority approved this recommendation and directed your commanding officer to issue you an other than honorable discharge by reason of misconduct, and on 7 April 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 prior satisfactory service, desire to upgrade your discharge, and assertion that one mistake should not cast a shadow over nearly seven years of honorable service. Nevertheless, the Board concluded these factors were not sufficient to warrant recharacterization of your discharge because of the seriousness of your repetitive misconduct which resulted in an NJP and included drug abuse. 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,



ROBERT D. ZSALMAN
Acting Executive Director