



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

TAL
Docket No: 2755-13
7 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 5 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.

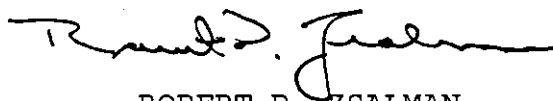
You reenlisted in the Marine Corps on 21 March 1972 after more than two years of prior honorable service. You received nonjudicial punishment (NJP) for unauthorized absence (UA) from your unit for a period 18 days. On 24 July 1972, you were UA from your unit until you surrendered on 5 February 1974, a period of 561 days. On 21 February 1974, you were UA from your unit until you surrendered on 27 March 1974, a period of 34 days. On 24 April 1974, you were UA from your unit until you were apprehended by civil authorities in Lake Charles, Louisiana, on 28 September 1974, a period of 157 days. On 6 October 1974, you were again UA from your unit until you were apprehended on 17 May 1976, a period of 589 days. On 14 July 1976, you made a written request for an other than honorable (OTH) discharge to avoid trial by court-martial for the

foregoing periods of UA. Prior to submitting this request you conferred with a qualified military lawyer at which time you were advised of your rights and warned of the probable adverse consequences of accepting such a discharge. Your request was granted and the commanding officer directed your OTH characterization of service. As a result of this action, you were spared the stigma of a court-martial conviction and the potential penalties of a punitive discharge and confinement at hard labor. On 30 July 1976, you were discharged with an OTH discharge.

The Board, in its review of your entire record and application carefully weighed all potentially mitigating factors, such as your youth and overall record of service. Nevertheless, the Board concluded these factors were not sufficient to warrant recharacterization of your discharge given the seriousness of your misconduct that resulted in one NJP, periods of UA totaling over three years and seven months and request for discharge. The Board believed that considerable clemency was extended to you when your request for discharge to avoid trial by court-martial was approved. Further, the Board concluded that you received the benefit of your bargain with the Marine Corps when your request for discharge was granted and should not be permitted to change it now. 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,



ROBERT D. ZSALMAN
Acting Executive Director