



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

[REDACTED]  
Docket No: 7599-16

NOV 07 2017

[REDACTED]  
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.

Although your application was not filed in a timely manner, the Board found it in the interest of justice to waive the statute of limitations and consider your application on its merits. A three-member panel of the Board for Correction of Naval Records, sitting in executive session, considered your application on 26 September 2017. 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, relevant portions of your naval record and applicable statutes, regulations and policies.

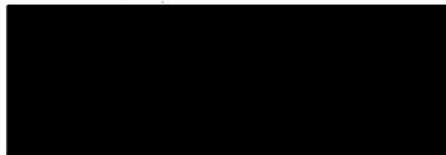
You enlisted in the Navy on 12 July 1989. On 4 August 1989, you were identified as a drug abuser during accession and placed on the drug urinalysis surveillance program. During the period from 24 January to 7 February 1990, you received two nonjudicial punishments (NJP) for unauthorized absence (UA) totaling 20 days and wrongful use of marijuana. Subsequently, you were notified of pending administrative separation action by reason of misconduct due to drug abuse. After you waived your procedural rights, your Commanding Officer recommended discharge under other than honorable (OTH) conditions by reason of misconduct due to drug abuse. The discharge authority approved this recommendation and directed separation under other than honorable conditions by reason of misconduct. On 16 February 1990, you were discharged.

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. The Board carefully weighed all potentially mitigating factors, such as your desire to upgrade your discharge and contentions that you were never given a second chance after testing positive during accession and you have medical records showing you suffer from ADHD, Bipolar disorder, and depression while enlisted. However, the Board concluded these factors were not sufficient to warrant relief in your case given your misconduct.

In this regard, the Board concluded that the severity of your drug use outweighed your desire to upgrade your discharge. In regard to your contention that you were not given a second chance, the Board noted that you were given a second opportunity when the Navy allowed you to enlist after testing positive during accession. The Board noted that there is no evidence in your record, and you submitted none, to support your contention that you suffered from mental illnesses while enlisted. Finally, the Board also noted that the record shows that you were notified of and waived your procedural rights. In doing so, you gave up your first and best opportunity to advocate for retention or a more favorable characterization of service by displaying you suffered from mental illness. Accordingly, your application has been denied.

It is regretted that the circumstances of your case are such that favorable action cannot be taken at this time. You are entitled to have the Board reconsider its decision upon the submission of new and material evidence. New evidence is evidence 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,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the Executive Director.

Executive Director