



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

[REDACTED]
Docket No. 673-17
JAN 04 2018

[REDACTED]
Dear [REDACTED]

This is in reference to your application for correction of your naval record pursuant to the provisions of 10 USC 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 case on its merits. A three-member panel of the Board for Correction of Naval Records, sitting in executive session, considered your application on 7 December 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 and began a period of active duty on 23 February 1994. You served for less than two years before your first disciplinary incident, specifically, being absent from your appointed place of duty without authorization on 16 October 1995. Subsequently, you have a number of minor disciplinary infractions resulting in numerous counseling warnings. On 17 May 1996, you received non-judicial punishment for violating Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ), Article 91 (Disrespect to a Chief Petty Officer). On 22 December 1997, you were found guilty at General Court-Martial for violating UCMJ, Article 86 (Unauthorized Absence), Article 107 (Sign Official Record with Intent to Deceive) (2 specifications), Article 121 (Stealing Government Property), Article 123 (Utter False Official Document) (2 specifications), and Article 121 (False Statement) (2 specifications). You were awarded seven months confinement, reduction in rank to E1, forfeitures, and a Bad Conduct Discharge (BCD). You were discharged from the Navy on 18 February 1999 with a BCD based on your court martial conviction and assigned a reentry code of RE-4.

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, in its review of your entire record and application, carefully weighed all potentially mitigating factors, such as your claim that you got caught up in another service

member's scheme, the remorse you feel about your misconduct, and your desire to receive Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) benefits. Nevertheless, the Board concluded these factors were not sufficient to warrant relief in your case because of the seriousness of your misconduct. Punitive discharges are authorized punishments of courts-martial and can only be awarded as an approved court-martial sentence pursuant to a conviction for a violation of the UCMJ. A Bad Conduct Discharge can be ordered by a special court-martial, as it was in your case, as punishment for an offense less serious than one for which a dishonorable discharge could be given. The Board felt that there was insufficient evidence to support changing your BCD to a more favorable characterization. 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,



Executive Director