



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

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Docket No. 2341-24

Ref: Signature Date

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Dear █

This is in reference to your application for correction of your naval record pursuant to Section 1552 of Title 10, United States Code. After careful and conscientious consideration of relevant portions of your naval record and your application, the Board for Correction of Naval Records (Board) found the evidence submitted insufficient to establish the existence of probable material error or injustice. Consequently, your application has been denied.

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, sitting in executive session, considered your application on 18 March 2024. The names and votes of the panel members 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, to include the 25 July 2018 guidance from the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness regarding equity, injustice, or clemency determinations (Wilkie Memo).

You enlisted in the United States Navy commenced a period of active duty on 1 September 1981. On your enlistment application, you acknowledged preservice drug use. On 27 April 1983, you received non-judicial punishment (NJP) for violating Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) Article 112(a), for the wrongful use of a controlled substance. You did not appeal this NJP. On 30 September 1983, you received substance abuse screening, wherein the screener noted that your "lack of desire/motivation to rehabilitate and remain in the naval service suggest low potential for future naval service."

On 17 November 1983, you were notified that you were being processed for an administrative discharge by reason of misconduct due to drug abuse and rehabilitation failure. You waived your right to consult with qualified counsel and your right to present written or oral matters in your defense. On 31 January 1984, you were discharged from the Navy for misconduct due to your drug abuse and assigned an Other than Honorable (OTH) characterization of service and an RE- 4 reentry code.

The Board carefully considered all potentially mitigating factors to determine whether the interests of justice warrant relief in your case in accordance with the Wilkie Memo. These included, but were not limited to: (1) your request to upgrade your discharge characterization, (2) your desire to receive medical benefits through the Department of Veteran's Affairs, and (3) the passage of time since your separation from service. For purposes of clemency and equity consideration, the Board noted that you did not provide any evidence related to your post-service accomplishments.

After thorough review, the Board concluded your potentially mitigating factors were insufficient to warrant relief. Specifically, the Board determined that your misconduct, as evidenced by your NJP and subsequent drug screening, outweighed these mitigating factors. The Board considered the seriousness of your misconduct and the fact that it involved a drug offense. Further, the Board also considered the likely negative impact your conduct had on the good order and discipline of your command. The Board determined that illegal substance abuse is contrary to the Navy core values and policy, renders such Sailor unfit for duty, and poses an unnecessary risk to the safety of fellow shipmates. Additionally, such misconduct places an undue burden on your chain of command and negatively impacts mission accomplishment. A characterization under OTH conditions is appropriate when the basis for separation is the commission of an act or acts constituting a significant departure from the conduct expected of a service member. The Board did not believe that your record was otherwise so meritorious as to deserve a discharge upgrade. For these reasons, the Board concluded that an OTH remains the appropriate characterization of service in your case.

Finally, absent a material error or injustice, the Board declined to summarily upgrade a discharge solely for the purpose of facilitating veterans' benefits, or enhancing educational or employment opportunities. Therefore, even in light of the Wilkie Memo and reviewing the record holistically, the Board did not find evidence of an error or injustice that warrants granting you the relief you requested or granting relief as a matter of clemency or equity. Accordingly, given the totality of the circumstances, the Board determined that your request does not merit relief.

You are entitled to have the Board reconsider its decision upon submission of new matters, which will require you to complete and submit a new DD Form 149. New matters are those not previously presented to or 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,

4/1/2024

