

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

> Docket No. 2972-24 Ref: Signature Date



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.

A three-member panel of the Board, sitting in executive session, considered your application on 17 April 2024. 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 requested to reinstate eligibility to transfer Post-9/11 GI Bill education benefits to your dependents effective 5 December 2019. The Board, in its review of your entire record and application, carefully weighed all potentially mitigating factors, to include your assertions. The Board concluded the ability to transfer Post-9/11 GI Bill education benefits to eligible dependents is a recruiting and retention tool that became effective 1 August 2009 in accordance with Title 38 U.S.C. § 3319. Pursuant to this law, Marine Corps guidance implementing the transfer of Post 9/11 GI Bill education benefits published by Marine Corps Administration (MARADMIN) message 0389/09, released on 29 June 2009, and MARADMIN 0421/09, released on 15 July 2009 with various updates prior to your retirement. These MARADMIN messages outlined eligibility, processing, service obligation, and reference information germane to transferring education benefits to eligible dependents. Specifically, MARADMIN 391/19 specified the basic criterion to transfer education benefits (TEB) includes the Marine must be eligible for retention for 4 years on active duty or in the Selected Reserve from the TEB request date and must agree to serve the four additional years from the date of election. Additionally, the policies specify, that failure to complete the service obligation would result in the right to the transferred entitlement being forfeited. Moreover, when submitting an application via the

MilConnect TEB portal, all service members must acknowledge a series of requirements before proceeding with their application. Included in these requirements is "I understand and agree to remain in the Armed Forces for the period required. I understand that failure to complete that service may lead to an overpayment by the Department of Veterans Affairs for any payment made."

A review of your record relevant to your eligibility to TEB reflects you submitted a TEB application on 2 December 2019 and requested to allocated 36 months of education benefits to your spouse. The Service approved your TEB application with an obligation end date of 4 December 2023. On 9 February 2022, you redistributed unused education benefits to each of your dependents. However, the Service changed your TEB approval to a rejection on 24 February 2022 due your approved retirement date of 1 August 2022. You transferred to the Retired List on 31 July 2022; over 1-year prior your TEB obligation end date. The Board determined that by you accepting the requirements in the MilConnect TEB portal and signing the Post-9/11 Educational Benefits Transferability Commitment and Statement of Understanding you acknowledged that failure to complete the service obligation would lead to termination of entitlement to transferability, therefore a change to your record is not warranted.

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,