

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

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

> Docket No. 5425-24 Ref: Signature Date

From: Chairman, Board for Correction of Naval Records

To: Secretary of the Navy

Subj: REVIEW OF NAVAL RECORD ICO FORMER MEMBER

, USN, XXX-XX-

Ref: (a) Title 10 U.S.C. § 1552

(b) DoD 7000.14-R FMR, Volume 7A, Chapter 2

(c) NAVADMIN 119/18, 14 May 18

Encl: (1) DD Form 149 w/attachments

(2) Advisory Opinion by NPC memo

(3) Subject's naval record

- 1. Pursuant to the provisions of reference (a), Subject, hereinafter referred to as Petitioner, filed enclosure (1) with the Board for Correction of Naval Records (Board), requesting that his naval record be corrected to show Petitioner's debt for Selective Retention Bonus (SRB) recoupment was forgiven.
- 2. The Board, consisting of previous pr
- 3. Before applying to this Board, Petitioner exhausted all administrative remedies available under existing law and regulations within the Department of the Navy. The Board, having reviewed all the facts of record pertaining to Petitioner's allegations of error and injustice finds as follows:
- a. On 25 October 2013, Petitioner enlisted in the U.S. Naval Reserve for 8 years with an Expiration of Obligated Service (EOS) of 24 October 2021.
- b. On 4 December 2013, Petitioner entered active duty for 4 years with an EAOS of 3 December 2017 and Soft EAOS of 3 December 2018.
- c. In accordance wither reference (b) Conditions Under Which Repayment Will Be Sought. When the conditions of a written agreement are not fulfilled and repayment is determined appropriate, the member will be required to repay the United States the unearned portion of a pay or benefit. In cases other than death of a member, the Secretary of the Military Department concerned will advise the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) of the disposition of

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any unearned portion of a pay or benefit. Repayment will be sought, and any unpaid balances may not be paid to members who incur a disability because of their misconduct.

Conditions Under Which Repayment Will Not Be Sought. As a general rule, repayment action may not be pursued in situations in which the member's inability to fulfill specified service conditions related to a pay or benefit is due to circumstances determined reasonably beyond the member's control. Payment of any unpaid portion of pay or benefit will be subject to the rules in Table 2-1, which in appropriate circumstances provide discretion to the Secretary of the Military Department concerned to pay unearned portions based on case-by-case determinations.

d. In accordance with reference (c) announced revised SRB award levels and reenlistment policy for Active Component and Full-Time Support and supersedes NAVADMIN 032/18.

Increased award levels are effective immediately and decreased levels are effective 30 days after the release of this NAVADMIN.

Sailors must reenlist within 180 days of their EAOS, except in the following cases: a. Nuclear-trained Sailors. b. Sailors eligible for combat zone tax exclusion are authorized to reenlist anytime within 1 calendar year of their EAOS. c. Sailors who received an Early Promote in block 45 of their most recent regular periodic evaluation will be allowed to reenlist early any time within one calendar year of their EAOS. d. Sailors who must obligate service to execute a permanent change of station move will be allowed to reenlist early any time within one calendar year of the detachment month, but not later than the date of detachment from the last intermediate duty station.

Commands are required to submit SRB reenlistment requests to BUPERS-328 via OPINS or NSIPS 35 to 120 days in advance of the requested reenlistment date of the Sailor. Requests submitted less than 35 days prior to the requested reenlistment date will be rejected. Furthermore, a zone "A" SRB with an award level of 2.0 (\$30,000 dollar award ceiling) for the CS rate was authorized.

- e. On 5 October 2018, issued Petitioner an Administrative Remarks (NAVPERS 1070/613) listing the following: "Reenlisted this date for 4 years and entitled to SRB based on rating: CSS3 SRB Zone A, 2.0. The total SRB entitlement is \$19,094.59. First installment of \$9,574.29 paid. Request for advance of remaining amount of payment is not automatic but dependent on funds available and her need relative to others requesting similar payment. Authority for SRB reenlistment is BUPERS Millington TN DTG: 010923Z OCT 18."
- f. The DFAS issued you a JUMPS Leave and Earning Statement (LES) Online Inquiry System for the period of 1 September 2018 to 30 September 2018 listing a carried forward of 0.00.
- g. The DFAS issued you a JUMPS LES Online Inquiry System for the period of 1 October 2018 to 31 October 2018 listing SRB \$9,547.29 and a carried forward of \$6,969.53. Furthermore, separation pay owed member was \$6,969.53.

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- h. The DFAS issued you a JUMPS LES Online Inquiry System for the period of 1 November 2018 to 30 November 2018 listing a carried forward of \$6,969.53. Furthermore, separation pay owed member was \$6,969.53.
- i. Petitioner was released from active duty and transferred to the Navy Reserve with an honorable character of service and was issued a Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214) for the period of 4 December 2013 to 3 December 2018 upon completion of required active service.
- j. The DFAS issued you a JUMPS LES Online Inquiry System for the period of 1 December 2018 to 31 December 2018 listing a carried forward of \$6,969.53. Mid-month-pay in the amount of \$2118.27 is listed, and separation pay owed member was \$6,969.53.
- k. On 1 May 2024, U.S. Department of the Treasury notified Petitioner that "[t]he U S. Department of the Treasury, Bureau of the Fiscal Service (Fiscal Service), applied all or part of your payment to delinquent debt that you owe. This action is authorized by federal law. Below is your payment information." Applied To This Debt: \$597.00.
- 1. On 19 September 2024, The DFAS provided the Board with a Master Record/Debt Reason Information that listed the following: original debt amount was \$4,051.67. Collections is \$-4033.30. Balance Due-Total \$38.52. "Debt is due to recoupment of the unearned portion of your (re)enlistment bonus in accordance with your separation program designator (SPD) code MBK, found in block 26 of your DD Form 214, certificate of release or discharge from active duty. If your DD Form 214 reflects a different SPD code, a copy should be forwarded to our office for review."
- m. In the advisory opinion, attached as enclosure (2), the office having cognizance over the subject matter addressed in Petitioner's application has commented to the effect that "[a] complete review of SNM Official Military Personnel File (OMPF), corporate data, and the document provided was conducted. The review revealed SNM enlisted in the USNR for 8 years on 10/25/2013 and began active duty on 12/4/2013 for 4 years with a 12-month extension. No evidence SNM reenlisted."

CONCLUSION

Upon review and consideration of all the evidence of record, and especially in light of the contents of enclosure (2), the Board finds the existence of an injustice warranting the following partial corrective action. Petitioner asserts that he never reenlisted or received an SRB for any reason. The Board concluded that Petitioner did not reenlist on 5 October 2018, however his LES for October 2018 listed the payment of an SRB in the amount of \$9,547.29. It also shows that a separation payment was owed to Petitioner in the amount of \$6,969.53. Petitioner was released from active duty on 3 December 2018, however in accordance with his LES for the month of December 2018, he received mid-month-pay in the amount of \$2,118.27. The Board determined that Petitioner was not entitled to an SRB payment because he did not reenlist, therefore if he did receive the SRB payment, recoupment is appropriate. Because there is no breakdown of the debt, the Board found it impossible to determine if the mid-month-pay he is shown to have received is part of the debt. There is no explanation of what the "Separation

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Payment' owed to Petitioner was for and if it was ever paid to him, or if it was applied to the debt. Therefore, the Board determined that the DFAS will conduct an audit of Petitioner's financial record to determine the source and amount of the debt.

RECOMMENDATION

That Petitioner's naval record be corrected, where appropriate, to show that:

The DFAS will complete an audit of Petitioner's financial records for possible erroneous SRB Payment/Debt and determine if Petitioner is due any back pay or has remaining debt.

A copy of this report of proceedings will be filed in Petitioner's naval record.

No further changes be made to Petitioner's naval record.

- 4. It is certified that a quorum was present at the Board's review and deliberations, and that the foregoing is a true and complete record of the Board's proceedings in the above titled matter.
- 5. Pursuant to the delegation of authority set out in Section 6(e) of the revised Procedures of the Board for Correction of Naval Records (32 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 723.6(e)), and having assured compliance with its provisions, it is hereby announced that the foregoing corrective action, taken under the authority of the reference, has been approved by the Board on behalf of the Secretary of the Navy.

