

## **DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**

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

> Docket No. 7649-24 Ref: Signature Date

## Dear Petitioner:

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 application on its merits. A three-member panel of the Board, sitting in executive session, considered your application on 30 September 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 the 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 Navy and commenced active duty on 13 January 1975. On 23 March 1976, you received non-judicial punishment (NJP) for unauthorized absence (UA). Additionally, you were issued an administrative remarks (Page 13) counseling concerning deficiencies in your performance and/or conduct. You were advised that any further deficiencies in your performance and/or conduct may result in disciplinary action and in processing for administrative discharge. On 10 December 1976, you received another NJP for UA. On 5 July 1977, you commenced a period of UA, during which you missed ship's movement, that ended in your surrender on 13 March 1978. On 24 April 1978, you were referred to psychiatry, found to have passive-aggressive personality, and were recommended for administrative discharge. On 19 May 1978, you were convicted by a special court-martial for your 251-day period of UA. During your 25 July 1978 drug abuse evaluation, you were found not dependent on drugs. Consequently, you were notified of pending administrative separation processing with General (Under Honorable Conditions) (GEN) discharge by reason of unsuitability due to character and behavior disorder: passive/aggressive personality. You waived your rights to consult counsel or

submit a statement to the Separation Authority. The Separation Authority subsequently directed your discharge for unsuitability with a GEN characterization of service and you were so discharged on 3 August 1978.

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, your desire to change your discharge characterization of service and your contention that you are proud of the job you did in the Navy and want to have your time in the military reflect a positive experience. For purposes of clemency and equity consideration, the Board noted you did not provide supporting documentation describing post-service accomplishments or advocacy letters.

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 NJPs and SPCM, outweighed these mitigating factors. In making this finding, the Board considered the seriousness of your repeated misconduct and the likely negative impact your conduct had on the good order and discipline of your command. The Board noted that you were given multiple opportunities to address your conduct issues, but you continued to commit misconduct, which ultimately led to your discharge for unsuitability. Ultimately, the Board concluded you were fortunate to receive a GEN characterization based on your extensive record of misconduct.

As a result, the Board concluded that significant negative aspects of your service outweighed the positive aspects and continues to warrant a GEN characterization. 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.

