



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

Docket No. 9283-24
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 15 January 2025. 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 began a period of active duty on 1 July 1987. On 2 October 1987, you were issued an administrative remarks (Page 13) noting that you completed four weeks of Fireman Apprenticeship Training. On 16 October 1987, you reported to [REDACTED] for duty. On 23 October 1987, you received a medical evaluation documenting that you were six weeks pregnant and elected to be discharged from the Navy.

Unfortunately, the documents pertinent to your administrative separation are not in your official military personnel file. Notwithstanding, the Board relies on a presumption of regularity to support the official actions of public officers and, in the absence of substantial evidence to the contrary, will presume that they have properly discharged their official duties. Based on the information contained on your Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214), you were separated from the Navy, on 9 November 1987, with an "Entry Level Separation (Uncharacterized)" characterization of service, your narrative reason for separation is "Pregnancy/Childbirth," your reenlistment code is "RE-4," and your separation code is "MDF;" which corresponds to pregnancy/childbirth.

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 upgrade your discharge character of service to Honorable and change your narrative reason for separation to "Hardship." The Board considered your contentions that: (1) your separation was unjust, (2) policies have changed since your discharge, (3) because of your type of discharge, you are not eligible for benefits and will not be eligible for benefits in the future, (4) you completed basic training, accession training, and was assigned to the ■■■■■■■■■■; (5) reassignment was not afforded to you, (6) due to deployment your discharge was expedited, and no other options were offered to you, and (7) you did not fully understand the type of discharge that you were receiving. 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 assigned uncharacterized entry-level separation remains appropriate. Applicable regulations authorize an uncharacterized entry-level separation if the processing of an individual's separation begins within 180 days of the individual's entry on active service. While there are exceptions to policy in cases involving misconduct or extraordinary performance, the Board determined neither exception applies in your case. Further, the Board determined your narrative reason for separation remains appropriate considering the circumstances for your administrative discharge. The Board determined the presumption of regularity applies in your case and you have not provided sufficient evidence to overcome the presumption that you were properly discharged based on your pregnancy. 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,

2/7/2025

