



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

Docket No. 9866-24
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.

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 29 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 15 November 1985. On 16 November 1985, you were briefed on the Navy policy on drug and alcohol abuse. On 31 July 1988, you received nonjudicial punishment (NJP) for assault and failure to obey a lawful order. You were retained in service and warned that any further misconduct could result in separation and an unfavorable discharge. On 8 September 1988, you received an alcohol and drug abuse medical evaluation where you admitted to smoking marijuana and drinking. On 13 September 1988, you received NJP for two specifications of wrongful use of marijuana and one specification of wrongful possession of drug paraphernalia. Consequently, you were notified that you were being recommended for administrative discharge from the Navy by reason of misconduct due to drug abuse and commission of a serious offense. You waived your procedural right to consult with military counsel and to present your case to an administrative discharge board. The commanding officer forwarded your administrative separation package to the separation authority recommending your administrative discharge from the Navy under Other Than Honorable (OTH) characterization of service. Ultimately, the separation authority directed

your OTH discharge from the Navy by reason of misconduct due to drug abuse and you were so discharged on 7 October 1988.

The Board carefully considered all potentially mitigating factors in your petition to determine whether the interests of justice warrant relief in your case including in accordance with the Wilkie Memo. These included, but were not limited to, your desire to upgrade your discharge character of service and contentions that: (1) you were put out of the service at the time for “popping hot” on a drug test, (2) you were struggling with undiagnosed PTSD at the time of discharge and were drinking and using marijuana as a way of coping with your symptoms, (3) you understand that it was not the best way at the time to handle the situation but did not know at the time how to handle it, (4) you have now been in treatment for a number of years and you are doing better, and (5) at the time of discharge you did not fully understand that the reason you were doing some of the things you were doing, such as drinking to excess and doing weed, was because you were trying to dull the emotions that you were going through. The Board observed you checked the “PTSD” box on your application but chose not to provide any evidence in support of your claim. For purposes of clemency and equity consideration, the Board noted that you did not provide 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 NJP, outweighed these mitigating factors. In making this finding, the Board considered the seriousness of your misconduct and the fact it involved drug offenses. The Board determined that illegal drug use by a service member is contrary to military core values and policy, renders such members unfit for duty, and poses an unnecessary risk to the safety of their fellow service members. The Board observed you were provided an opportunity to correct your conduct deficiencies but chose to continue to commit misconduct, which led to your OTH discharge. Your conduct not only showed a pattern of misconduct but was sufficiently pervasive and serious to negatively affect the good order and discipline of your command. Finally, the Board noted you provided no evidence, other than your statement, to substantiate your contentions. Therefore, the Board determined that the evidence of record did not demonstrate that you were not responsible for your conduct or that you should otherwise not be held accountable for your actions.

As a result, the Board determined that there was no impropriety or inequity in your discharge and concluded that your misconduct and disregard for good order and discipline clearly merited your discharge. 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 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,

3/11/2025

