

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

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

> Docket No. 10035-24 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.

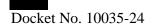
A three-member panel of the Board, sitting in executive session, considered your application on 3 April 2025. The names and votes of the members of the panel will be furnished upon request. Your allegations of error and injustice were reviewed in accordance with administrative regulations and procedures 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. In addition, the Board considered the advisory opinion contained in Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps (HQMC) memorandum 1070 MPO of 3 April 2020.

Your Pay Entry Base Date (PEBD) is 17 July 2006/Armed Forces Active-Duty Base Date is 15 June 2015.

In accordance with MARADMIN 575/17 published on 16 October 2017, announced the Continuation Pay (CP) Program for Calendar Year (CY) 2018, and to provide supplemental guidance to MCBUL 1800. Marines not enrolled in the BRS are not eligible to receive CP.

Background. Per the references, the BRS goes into effect 1 January 2018. Marines with a Date of Original Entry Armed Forces on or before 31 December 2017 are grandfathered into the High-Three legacy retirement system. Beginning on 1 January 2018, Marines who are in the opt-in eligible population, defined in references (a) and (d) [The Department of the Navy BRS Implementation Guidance], are authorized to enroll in the BRS. Marines who enroll in the BRS and later complete 12 years of service (YOS) may be eligible to receive a one-time CP payment in exchange for an agreement to serve four (4) additional years of obligated service. For the purpose of CP eligibility, 12 YOS is defined as 12 years and zero days of service as calculated from the Marine's PEBD.

CP Eligibility. In CY 2018, Marines enrolled in the BRS before completing 12 YOS and



meeting the requirements of the below sub paragraphs are eligible for CP. Marines who enroll in the BRS after having completed 12 YOS will not be eligible for CP.

Active Component and Active Reserve. Marines issued orders to separate from the Marine Corps are not eligible to receive CP. Eligible Marines must agree to serve an additional four (4) year commitment to qualify for CP.

Reserve Component other than Active Reserve. Eligible Reserve Marines in a paid status who have not been issued orders to separate from the Marine Corps, and who are eligible to enter into an agreement to serve an additional four (4) year Selected Reserve commitment, qualify for CP. For the purpose of CP, Reserve Marines in a paid status are those affiliated with the Selected Reserve or on active duty orders on the day they complete 12 YOS. Such Reserve Marines are not required to be performing duty on the day they complete 12 YOS.

Marines who reach 12 YOS in CY 2018 will receive notification of their eligibility via e-mail and MOL message on or about 15 October 2017. Further, such Marines will receive another MOL message 30 days before completing 12 YOS.

On 17 January 2018, you enrolled in the Blended Retirement System (BRS).

On 1 February 2018, you signed a United States Marine Corps Appointment Acceptance and Record (NAVMC 763) in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve as a Warrant Officer under the FY 18 WO R program. Furthermore, it listed the following periods in the USMCR (J): from 30 June 2006 to 16 July 2006 (Not creditable for pay purposes), and from 17 July 2006 to 31 January 2018.

In accordance with MCBUL 1800 published on 25 June 2019, that "[o]bligated Service. a. Marines electing to receive CP are required to agree to serve for four (4) years after the date on which they become eligible to receive CP. b. In general, any additional services obligation incurred as a result of electing to receive CP will be served in the component in which the Marine was serving at the time of agreement, commencing upon acceptance by the Marine Corps of the agreement to continue serving. c. Any obligated service incurred as a result of electing to receive CP will begin at the start of the Marine's 12th year of service by PEBD. d. This obligated service will run concurrently with any other service obligation, unless other service obligations incurred specifically preclude concurrent obligations. e. RC members will perform obligated service in the Selected Reserve. f. RC members performing Active Reserve service will perform obligated service in the Active Reserve (AR). g. Movement from the AC, or AR, to the IRR or Selected Reserve will trigger repayment procedures as described in paragraph 7 below. h. Uncertainty as to a Marine's future status (i.e., uncertainty as to the ability to reenlist, medical hold, and legal hold) does not constitute inability to obligate to additional service with respect to CP."

On 26 February 2020, BRS notified you that "[a]ccording to our records, you opted into the Blended Retirement System and were eligible to accept or decline continuation pay (CP) during the calendar year in which you completed 12 [YOS] as determined by your [PEBD]. Further, our records indicate that you were not paid CP, and you did not submit a statement of understanding to either accept or decline CP before your 12-year pay entry anniversary date. Per MARADMINs 575/17 and 716/18, a notice of eligibility message was required to be sent to your Marine Online (MOL) account 30 days before your 12-year pay entry anniversary date. Due to a programming error, this message was not sent to your MOL account as required. Therefore, if you wish to receive CP, you may submit a

request for payment via the Board for Correction of Naval Records (BCNR) application process on the basis of an error in your naval record. I do not know what the outcome of your request would be. BCNR will likely request an advisory opinion from the Marine Corps before making a final decision on a request for CP. Such request for advisory opinions regarding CP normally come to M&RA(MPO) to write the advisory opinion.

AC Marines who accept CP must remain in the active component for the duration of their four year payback and they are subject to recoupment if they are join the AR or RC during the payback period. The four year payback runs concurrent with existing service obligation."

On 24 September 2024, you signed a Reserve BRS-CP Statement of Understanding electing to receive CP in a Lump Sum. Furthermore, it was witnessed by cognizant authority.

You requested CP, the Board in its review of your entire record and application, carefully weighed all potentially mitigating factors, to include your assertions. The Board concluded that you did not meet the eligibility criteria to receive CP in accordance with Marine Corps Bulletin (McBul) 1800 and Marine Corps Administrative MARADMIN 575/17. Specifically, the policies indicate CP must be elected prior to completing 12 YOS as calculated from the PEBD. MARADMIN 575/17, specified that Marine who reached 12YOS in CY 2018 would receive notification of their eligibility via e-mail and MOL message on or about 15 October 2017. Further, such Marines would receive another MOL message 30 days before completing 12 YOS. The McBul 1800 indicated that notification of eligibility would be sent to eligible Marines 180 days and 30 days before reaching 12 YOS. A review of your record indicates your PEBD is 17 July 2006, and you enrolled in the BRS on 17 January 2018. You assert that you were not properly notified of your eligibility for CP, per "CMC (MPO's) standing advisory opinion." However, the Board concluded that on 26 February 2020, HQMC (MPO) notified you that notifications of CP eligibility were not sent to you per the aforementioned policies because of programming errors and provided you with directions on submitting an application to the Board if you wished to received CP. The Board could not find, nor did you provide sufficient evidence that prevented you from making a timely request for correction. Therefore, the Board determined 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.

