

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

> Docket No. 10122-24 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.

Because your application was submitted with new contentions not previously considered, the Board found it in the interest of justice to review your application. A three-member panel of the Board, sitting in executive session on 10 March 2025, has carefully examined your current request. 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 previously applied to this Board for an upgrade to your characterization of service where you contended that you were told your discharge would be automatically upgraded after three years. The Board denied your request on 20 May 1998.

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 contentions you were pressured into resigning from the Marine Corps, that you were never afforded counsel, and were not told what was happening or the consequences of an Under Other Than Honorable Conditions (OTH) characterization of service. Additionally, the Board noted you checked the "PTSD" and "Sexual Assault/Harassment" boxes on your application but chose not to respond to the 11 October 2024 letter from the Board requesting evidence in support of your claims. 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 four non-judicial punishments, outweighed these mitigating factors. In making this finding, the Board considered the seriousness of your misconduct and found that your conduct showed a complete disregard for military authority and regulations. The Board observed you were given multiple opportunities 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. With respect to your contention that you were not afforded counsel or informed of what was happening and the implications of an OTH discharge, the Board noted that you signed an Acknowledgement of Rights to be Exercised or Waived during Separation Proceedings by Reason of Misconduct indicating that you had received notice of discharge processing recommending involuntary discharge with an OTH characterization of service due to a Pattern of Misconduct and that you had consulted with counsel and understood your rights. Finally, the Board noted you provided no evidence, other than your personal statement, to substantiate your contentions of mistreatment or denial of due process. Rather, the Board found ample evidence that you were processed for separation and discharged as a result of your extensive record of misconduct and documented unwillingness to conform the minimum conduct standards.

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 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,