

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

> Docket No. 463-25 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 threemember panel of the Board, sitting in executive session, considered your application on 26 February 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 entered active duty with the Navy on 17 January 2006. On 15 August 2007, civil authorities arrested you and charged you with six counts of possession of child pornography. Consequently, you were notified of pending administrative separation action by reason of misconduct due to commission of a serious offense (Sexual Perversion). After you elected to waive your rights, your commanding officer (CO) forwarded your package to the separation authority (SA) recommending your discharge with an Other Than Honorable (OTH) characterization of service. The SA approved the CO's recommendation and you were so discharged on 17 September 2007.

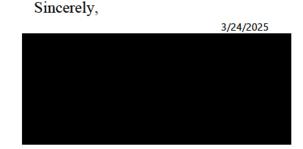
The Board carefully considered all potentially mitigating factors to determine whether the interests of justice warrant relief in your case in accordance with the Wilkie Memo. These included, but were not limited to, your desire to upgrade your discharge and contentions that your discharge should be upgraded because you were discharged because you ran out of leave while in civilian custody, you were discharged prior to your civil conviction, you have changed your life around while incarcerated, and you continue to work on becoming a productive person

upon your release from prison. 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 these potentially mitigating factors were insufficient to warrant relief. Specifically, the Board determined that your misconduct, as evidenced by your civil arrest and eventual conviction, outweighed these mitigating factors. In making this finding, the Board considered the seriousness of your misconduct and the likely negative impact your conduct had on the good order and discipline of your command. Further, the Board considered the likely discrediting effect your arrest had on the Navy. Additionally, contrary to your contention, the Board found indisputable evidence that you were discharged based on your arrest for possession of child pornography and not for unauthorized absence<sup>1</sup>. Finally, the Board determined your contention that the timing of your post-discharge conviction warrants consideration for a discharge upgrade to be without merit. The Board found no error with your discharge based on your civil arrest for child pornography. The fact you were later convicted of the offenses led to the Board to conclude there is also no injustice with your discharge.

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.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> If you were out of leave, your unauthorized absence could have been an additional basis for separation along with your sexual perversion offense. However, to your benefit, your command chose not to pursue that basis for separation.