

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

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

> Docket No. 1121-25 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 three-member panel of the Board, sitting in executive session, considered your application on 14 May 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 U.S. Navy and began a period of active duty on 31 May 2001. On 9 June 2004, you were convicted by a general court-martial (GCM) after pleading guilty to Article 81 of the UCMJ, conspiring with three other Sailors to commit an offense under the UCMJ, and Article 128 of the UCMJ, assault consummated by battery upon a Sailor and inflicting grievous bodily harm upon him a broken nose, broken jaw, a fractured clavicle and a fractured eye socket. You were sentence to confinement, forfeiture of pay, reduction in rank, and a Bad Conduct Discharge (BCD).

Your punitive discharge was suspended in accordance with your pretrial agreement and, thus, you were notified of administrative separation processing for misconduct commission of a serious offense. After you waived your rights, the Commanding Officer (CO) made his recommendation to the Separation Authority (SA) that you be discharged with an Other Than Honorable (OTH) characterization. The SA accepted the recommendation, and you were so discharged on 28 September 2004.

Post-discharge, you applied to the Naval Discharge Review Board (NDRB) for relief. The NDRB denied your request, on 31 March 2011, after determining your discharge was proper as issued.

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 for a discharge upgrade and contention that, after completing a 13-month deployment, you found yourself in some trouble for doing what you thought was right at the time, you were protecting a Sailor, you have worked to make amends for your mistake, and want you family to be proud of your service. For purposes of clemency and equity consideration, the Board considered the totality of your application; which consisted solely of what you stated on your DD Form 149 and your personal statement without any additional documentation for the Board's consideration.

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 GCM, 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 also considered the likely negative effect your assault on another Sailor had on the good order and discipline of your unit. Further, the Board considered that you already received the benefit of your pretrial agreement when your punitive discharge was not approved. Finally, the Board noted you provided no evidence, other than your statement, to substantiate your contentions.

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.

