

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

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

> Docket No. 1248-25 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 case on its merits. A three-member panel of the Board, sitting in executive session, considered your application on 20 May 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. The Board also considered the 14 January 2025 decision furnished by the Marine Corps Performance Evaluation Review Board (PERB) and 22 October 2024 advisory opinion (AO) provided to the PERB by the Manpower Management Division Records and Performance Branch. The AO was provided to you on 14 January 2025 and you were given 30 days in which to submit a response. Although you were afforded an opportunity to submit a rebuttal, you chose not to do so.

The Board carefully considered your request to remove the fitness report for the reporting period 2 October 2016 to 31 May 2017. The Board considered your contention that it was not proper for a fellow Major to serve as the Reporting Senior (RS) and there was no operational or logical reason/necessity for it. You also contend Sections I and K do not match the relative value of the fitness report and does not accurately reflect your performance. The RS did not have a profile at report processing, over time you became the victim of an inflationary cycle of subsequent reports getting higher marks than the previous one, and a "love the ones you're with" phenomena. You claim that you supported post-trial review of all courts-martial throughout the

and none of which was supervised by the RS. You also claim the Reviewing Officer (RO) concurs; as evidenced by the correspondence from your former RO.

The Board, however, substantially concurred with the PERB's decision that you did not demonstrate probable material error, substantive inaccuracy, or injustice warranting removal of your fitness report. The Board determined that your fitness report is valid as written and filed in accordance with the applicable Marine Corps Performance Evaluation System (PES) Manual. In this regard, the Board noted that the RS and RO were your reporting officials during the previous report period and the RO included the required Section K comment authorizing the same grade RS. The Board also noted that the RS served in a superior billet as the

Accordingly, the Board found no error with the authorization of the same grade RS. The Board considered the correspondence from your former RO; however, the Board was not persuaded. Your former RO admits that the fitness report was considered a very good report at processing and affirmed that his marking is accurate for a new Major with less than a year time in grade when put against his profile at the time. The Board also determined that the RO's comment regarding future performance is irrelevant since performance is not evaluated based upon the officer your will become and is based on your performance during that reporting period. Moreover, the Board found no evidence that you were the victim of an inflationary cycle or "love the ones you're with" phenomena. The Board further determined that your dissatisfaction with the fitness report's relative value does not constitute a basis for removal of your fitness report. The Board thus concluded there is no probable material error, substantive inaccuracy, or injustice warranting corrective action. 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.

