



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

██████████  
Docket No. 2023-25  
Ref: Signature Date

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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 23 April 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 1 November 1978. On 4 December 1980, you received non-judicial punishment (NJP) for possession of marijuana. On 26 March 1982, you received NJP for wrongful use of marijuana. On 23 July 1982, you received NJP for wrongful use of marijuana and being in an area where drugs were present. Consequently, you were notified of pending administrative separation action by reason of misconduct due to drug abuse. On 26 July 1982, a drug dependency evaluation determined you were not drug dependent. After electing 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. In the meantime, on 13 August 1982, you received an additional NJP for one hour of unauthorized absence. Ultimately, the SA approved the CO's recommendation and you were so discharged on 20 August 1982.

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 you made a terrible mistake, used marijuana due to stress and peer pressure, were told your discharge could be changed after six months, you received a meritorious promotion, several awards, and commendations while serving, and you would like to receive Department of Veterans Affairs benefits. For purposes of clemency and equity consideration, the Board considered your statement and the character letters you provided in support of your application.

After thorough review, the Board concluded these potentially mitigating factors were insufficient to warrant relief. Specifically, the Board determined your misconduct as evidenced by your NJPs, outweighed the potential mitigating factors. In making this finding, the Board considered the seriousness of your misconduct and the fact it involved several drug offenses. The Board determined that illegal drug use by a service member is contrary to military core values and policy, renders such members unfit for duty, and poses an unnecessary risk to the safety of their fellow service members. Further, the Board observed you were given several 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 drug abuse but was sufficiently pervasive and serious to negatively affect the good order and discipline of your command. Contrary to your contention that you made a mistake, the Board found that you committed multiple drug offenses over a 19-month period.

The Board also felt that your record clearly reflected your willful misconduct and the evidence of record did not show that you were not responsible for your conduct or that you should not be held accountable for your actions. Further, the Board noted that there is no provision of federal law or in Navy/Marine Corps regulations that allows a discharge to be automatically upgraded due solely to the passage of time or after a specified number of months or years. Additionally, absent a material error or injustice, the Board declined to summarily upgrade a discharge solely for the purpose of facilitating veterans' benefits or enhancing educational or employment opportunities.

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. While the Board carefully considered the evidence you provided in mitigation and commends you for your post-discharge rehabilitation, 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. Ultimately, the Board concluded the mitigation evidence you provided was insufficient to outweigh the seriousness of your misconduct. 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.

Sincerely,

5/2/2025

