



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

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Docket No. 2363-25
Ref: Signature Date

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Dear Petitioner:

This is in reference to your application for correction of your naval record pursuant to Title 10, United States Code, Section 1552. 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 June 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, 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 Navy Reserves and began a period of active duty on 7 September 1982. Prior to commence active duty, you admitted preservice use of a controlled substance-marijuana. Between 5 June 1989 and 27 June 1989, you had two periods of unauthorized absence (UA) totaling four days, three hours, and five minutes. On 29 June 1989, you were counseled concerning deficiencies in performance; specifically, disciplinary infractions or misconduct with military authorities. You were advised that failure to take corrective action could result in administrative separation.

On 16 July 1989, you began a third period of UA which lasted two days and resulted in nonjudicial punishment (NJP) on 29 June 1989. Between 27 July 1989 and 24 October 1990, you received NJP on three occasions for three periods of UA and disobeying a lawful order. On 25 October 1990, you were counseled concerning deficiencies in performance, specifically periods of UA. You were advised that failure to take corrective action could result in

administrative separation. On 6 February 1991, you received a fifth NJP for a period of UA. On 3 April 1991, you received a sixth NJP for wrongful use of a controlled substance-marijuana.

Consequently, you were notified of the initiation of administrative separation proceedings by reason of misconduct due to drug abuse and misconduct due to pattern of misconduct. Subsequently, you decided to waive your procedural rights. Your commanding officer recommended an Other Than Honorable (OTH) discharge characterization of service and the separation authority approved the recommendation by reason of misconduct due to pattern of misconduct. On 14 June 1991, you were so discharged.

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 contentions that: (a) you entered the Navy for the wrong reasons as you were trying to get away from an abusive environment, (b) you quit high school and received a GED when you arrived in █, (c) you have now a remarkable relationship with your stepfather but it took years to overcome, and (d) you have completed a bachelor's degree, worked for the █, and became a contributing member of society and your community. For purposes of clemency and equity consideration, the Board considered the totality of your application; which included your DD Form 149 and the evidence you provided in support of it.

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 NJPs, outweighed these mitigating factors. In making this finding, the Board considered the seriousness of your misconduct and the fact it included a drug related offense. 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 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.

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 submitted in mitigation, 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 that your request does not merit relief.

You are entitled to have the Board reconsider its decision upon the 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,

7/10/2025

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Executive Director

Signed by: █