



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF NAVAL RECORDS
701 S. COURTHOUSE RD
ARLINGTON, VA 22204

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Docket No. 2555-25
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 December 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).

After a previous period of Honorable service, you reenlisted in the U.S Navy and began a second period of active duty on 16 November 1979. On 28 December 1979 you began a period of unauthorized absence (UA) that ended on 11 January 1980. On 17 January 1980, you failed to return on Technical Arrest Orders (TAO) and began another period of UA that ended on 7 April 1980. You then began another period of UA on 25 April 1980 that ended with your apprehension on 7 November 1980. On 24 November 1980, you broke restriction and began another period of UA that ended on 11 July 1981.

On 25 January 1982, you were found guilty by a special court-martial (SPCM) for your periods of UA. You were sentenced to confinement, forfeiture of pay, and a Bad Conduct Discharge (BCD). After completion all levels of review, you were so discharged on 4 February 1983.

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 an upgrade in your characterization of service.

You also checked the "PTSD" box on your application but did not provide supporting evidence of your claim. For purposes of clemency and equity consideration, the Board considered the totality of your application; which included your DD Form 149, DD Form 214, and the character letters you provided.

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 SPCM, 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. 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.

The Board also noted that, although it cannot set aside a conviction, it might grant clemency in the form of changing a characterization of discharge, even one awarded by a court-martial. However, the Board concluded, this was not a case warranting any clemency as you were properly convicted at a SPCM of serious misconduct. The Board determined that a BCD is appropriate when the basis for discharge is the commission of an act or acts constituting a significant departure from the conduct expected of a Sailor. In reviewing the number and nature of your offenses, the Board found that your punishment was appropriate based on the seriousness of your misconduct.

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, 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 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,

1/13/2026

