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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The Board carefully considered all potentially mitigating factors to determine whether the interests of justice warrant relief in your case in accordance with the Kurta, Hagel, and Wilkie Memos. These included, but were not limited to, your desire to upgrade your discharge character

of service to ensure access is granted for Department of Veterans Affairs benefits. 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.

As part of the Board's review, a qualified mental health professional reviewed your contentions and the available records and provided the Board with an AO on 14 August 2025. The AO stated in pertinent part:

There is evidence that the Petitioner sustained a traumatic brain injury (TBI) while in service (April 1987). He was observed for three days and then returned to limited duty. His available medical records are sparse; however it is presumed that he made a full recovery and was deemed fit for duty given that he remained in service until his misconduct three years later. The nature and extensiveness of his misconduct and conspiring with a fellow Marine to do so, suggests intact mental capacity and cannot be said to have been caused by his TBI three years prior. Additional records (e.g., active duty medical records, post-service mental health records describing the Petitioner's diagnosis, symptoms, and their specific link to his separation) may aid in rendering an alternate opinion.

The AO concluded, "it is my clinical opinion that there is sufficient evidence of a TBI sustained in service. There is insufficient evidence to attribute his misconduct to a TBI."

After thorough review, the Board concluded your potentially mitigating factors were insufficient to warrant relief. Specifically, the Board determined your misconduct, as evidenced by your general court-martial conviction for 13 specifications of larceny in travel claim fraud, outweighed these mitigating factors. In making this finding, the Board considered the seriousness of your misconduct and concluded that it showed a complete disregard for military authority and regulations. Therefore, the Board concluded that your discharge was proper and equitable under standards of law and discipline and that the discharge accurately reflects your conduct during your period of service, which was terminated by your Bad Conduct Discharge (BCD).

Further, the Board concurred with the AO that, while there is sufficient evidence of a TBI sustained in service, there is insufficient evidence to attribute your misconduct to a TBI. The Board applied liberal consideration to your claim that you suffered from TBI, and to the effect that this condition may have had upon the conduct for which you were discharged in accordance with the Hagel and Kurta Memos. Applying such liberal consideration, the Board found sufficient evidence of a TBI condition that may be attributed to military service. This conclusion is supported by the AO. However, even applying liberal consideration, the Board found insufficient evidence to conclude that the misconduct for which you were discharged was excused or mitigated by your TBI condition. In this regard, the Board simply had insufficient information available upon which to make such a conclusion. The Board considered the nature and extensiveness of your misconduct that included conspiring with a fellow Marine to commit misconduct. The Board determined your actions suggests an intact mental capacity and therefore your misconduct cannot be said to have been caused by your TBI three years prior. Therefore, the Board determined that the evidence of record did not demonstrate that you were not mentally

responsible for your conduct or that you should not be held accountable for your actions. Moreover, even if the Board assumed that your misconduct was somehow attributable to a TBI condition, the Board unequivocally concluded that the severity of your serious misconduct more than outweighed the potential mitigation offered by the TBI condition.

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 Kurta, Hagel, and Wilkie Memo and reviewing the record liberally and 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,

12/2/2025

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