



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

Docket No. 3744-25

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 application on its merits. A three-member panel of the Board, sitting in executive session, considered your application on 18 July 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).

The Board determined that your personal appearance, with or without counsel, would not materially add to their understanding of the issues involved. Therefore, the Board determined that a personal appearance was not necessary and considered your case based on the evidence of record.

You enlisted in the U.S. Navy and began a period of active duty service on 17 November 1981. Your pre-enlistment physical examination, on 16 October 1981, and self-reported medical history both noted no psychiatric or neurologic issues or symptoms.

On 2 June 1983, you received non-judicial punishment (NJP) for the wrongful use of a controlled substance (marijuana) on two (2) separate occasions. You did not appeal your NJP. On 2 June 1983, your command issued you a "Page 13" retention warning (Page 13) documenting your

drug abuse. The Page 13 expressly advised you that any further deficiencies in your performance and/or conduct may result in disciplinary action and in processing for administrative discharge.

On 11 January 1985, you were convicted at a Special Court-Martial (SPCM) for the wrongful use of marijuana. The court sentenced you to a reduction in rank to Seaman Apprentice (E-2), forfeitures of pay, and confinement at hard labor for 75 days. On 15 February 1985, the Convening Authority approved the SPCM sentence as adjudged; except suspended any confinement in excess of 45 days.

On 19 February 1985, your command notified you of administrative separation proceedings by reason of misconduct due to drug abuse. You waived your rights to consult with counsel, submit written rebuttal statements, and to request an administrative separation board.

In the interim, your drug dependency evaluation, on 5 March 1985, indicated you were neither psychologically, nor physiologically drug dependent. On 4 April 1985, your command strongly recommended to the Separation Authority that you should receive an under Other Than Honorable conditions (OTH) discharge characterization. Ultimately, on 25 April 1985, you were separated from the Navy for misconduct with an OTH discharge characterization and were assigned an RE-4 reentry code.

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) the marijuana was given to you when you arrived in ██████████, you wanted to be a part of the group, and you felt intimidated so accepted it, (b) you served your time in jail for your offense, (c) post-service you have continued to be a law-abiding citizen, (d) you regret your past mistake and you are asking for an upgrade to your discharge, and (e) you were proud to have served, you made a mistake, and you were punished. For purposes of clemency and equity consideration, the Board considered the totality of the evidence you provided in support of your application, which consisted solely of your DD Form 149 and a copy of your DD Form 214.

After thorough review, the Board concluded these potentially mitigating factors and contentions were insufficient to warrant relief. The Board did not believe that your record was otherwise so meritorious as to deserve a discharge upgrade. The Board concluded that significant negative aspects of your conduct and/or performance greatly outweighed any positive aspects of your military record. The Board determined that illegal drug use is contrary to military core values and policy, renders such service members unfit for duty, and poses an unnecessary risk to the safety of their fellow Sailors. The Board noted that marijuana use is still against Department of Defense regulations and its use in any form is still not permitted for recreational use while serving in the military. The Board determined that characterization under OTH conditions is generally warranted for misconduct and is appropriate when the basis for separation is the commission of an act or acts constituting a significant departure from the conduct expected of a Sailor. The Board determined that the record clearly reflected your misconduct was intentional and willful and indicated you were unfit for further service. The Board concluded that your cumulative misconduct was not minor in nature and demonstrated a repeated failure to conform

to basic military standards of good order and discipline, all of which further justified your OTH characterization. Moreover, the Board noted that the evidence of record did not demonstrate that you were not mentally responsible for your conduct or that you should not otherwise be held accountable for your actions.

As a result, the Board determined that there was no impropriety or inequity in your discharge, and the Board concluded that your drug-related misconduct and disregard for good order and discipline clearly merited your discharge. 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. 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,

7/21/2025

