



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

██████████
Docket No. 4205-25
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 1 August 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 enlisted in the U.S. Navy and began a period of active duty service on 28 December 2000. Your pre-enlistment physical examination, on 15 December 2000, and self-reported medical history both noted no psychiatric or neurologic issues or symptoms. As part of your enlistment application, you disclosed pre-service marijuana use. On 7 April 2001, you reported for duty on board the ██████████ Pre-Commissioning Unit in ██████████
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On 23 August 2001, you received non-judicial punishment (NJP) for: (a) unauthorized absence, (b) two separate specifications of insubordinate conduct, and (c) assault. You did not appeal your NJP. On 16 November 2001, you received NJP for: (a) the wrongful use of a controlled

substance (marijuana), and (b) failing to obey a lawful general order by being in possession of drug paraphernalia. You did not appeal your NJP.

Consequently, your command notified you of administrative separation proceedings by reason of misconduct due to drug abuse and commission of a serious offense. You waived in writing your rights to consult with counsel, submit statements, and to request an administrative separation board. Your separation physical examination and self-reported medical history both noted no psychiatric or neurologic issues, symptoms, history, or counseling. Ultimately, on 18 December 2001, you were separated from the Navy for misconduct with an Other Than Honorable conditions (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) you were using cannabis because you came back from combat after 9/11 and had bad PTSD and anxiety, (b) you were also using cannabis because your boots were too small and caused great pain in your feet and caused bunions and hammer toe, and you were using cannabis for the pain caused from such conditions. You also checked the "PTSD" and "Other Mental Health" boxes on your application but chose not to respond to the Board's request for supporting evidence of your claims. For purposes of clemency and equity consideration, the Board considered the totality of your application; which consisted solely of your DD Form 149 without any other additional documentation.

After thorough review, the Board concluded these potentially mitigating factors 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 brief military record. The Board determined that illegal drug use is contrary to Navy 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 cumulative misconduct was intentional and willful and indicated you were unfit for further service. 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.

The Board also found no evidence you participated in a post-9/11 combat deployment. At all relevant times you were assigned to the pre-commissioning unit of the ██████████. The Board observed that ██████████ did not commission until 12 July 2003; which was long after your December 2001 discharge. Thus, the Board was not persuaded by your contention that you suffered from a mental health condition because you "came back from combat after 9/11."

The Board observed that character of military service is based, in part, on conduct and overall trait averages which are computed from marks assigned during periodic evaluations. Your overall active duty trait average calculated from your available performance evaluations during your enlistment was approximately 2.33 in conduct. Navy regulations in place at the time of your discharge recommended a minimum trait average of 2.5 in conduct (proper military behavior), for a fully honorable characterization of service. The Board concluded that your conduct marks during your active duty career were a direct result of your substandard performance of duty and cumulative misconduct which further justified your OTH discharge characterization.

As a result, the Board determined that there was no impropriety or inequity in your discharge, and the Board concluded that your cumulative 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,

8/11/2025

