



counseling regarding your ineligibility for automatic advancement to Airman due to your failure to successfully complete your Airman coursework.

On 11 May 1973, a Medical Board recommended you be discharged due to physical disability based on a diagnosis of Bilateral Dorsal Boss that existed prior to service and was not aggravated by service. You waived your right to appeal this recommendation to the Physical Evaluation Board (PEB) and requested to be administratively discharged as soon as possible. Ultimately, you were discharged due to physical disability with a General (Under Honorable Conditions) (GEN) characterization of service on 18 May 1973.

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 to change your discharge characterization of service and your contentions that you served honorably, had only one four-hour UA, and a GEN discharge does not reflect your service. You further argue that you sustained service-related injuries during the course of your duties and you deserve all veterans' benefits. For purposes of clemency and equity consideration, the Board considered the totality of your application; which consisted of your DD Form 149, your personal statement, a Department of Veterans Affairs decision letter, and education and community service documentation you provided.

After thorough review, the Board concluded your potentially mitigating factors were insufficient to warrant relief. Specifically, the Board determined that your misconduct, as evidenced by your NJP, outweighed these mitigating factors. In making this finding, the Board considered the likely negative impact your conduct had on the good order and discipline of your command. The Board noted that you were counseled regarding your substandard performance and conduct after you expressed a desire to be discharged by whatever means possible. The Board further noted that characterization of service is based, in part, on military behavior/conduct and overall trait averages which are computed from marks assigned during periodic evaluations. Your military behavior average was 2.8 and an average of 3.0 was required at the time of your separation for a fully Honorable characterization of service. Moreover, contrary to your contention, the Board also noted that the physical ailment for which you were discharged was determined to have occurred prior to entry and was not aggravated by military service. Therefore, after the application of the standards and principles contained in the Wilkie Memo, the Board found that your service fell below the minimum standards for an Honorable characterization of service.

Finally, absent a material error or injustice, the Board declined to summarily upgrade a discharge solely for the purpose of facilitating veterans' benefits, or enhancing educational or employment opportunities.

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 your misconduct and documented poor attitude at the time. 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,

1/21/2026

