



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

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Docket No. 7816-25
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 27 January 2026. 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 following is the relevant factual background of your case based upon review of your naval record and/or the matters provided with your application:

1. You entered active duty with the Marine Corps on 16 February 1971.
2. On 1 November 1971, you received non-judicial punishment (NJP) for wrongfully engaging in a fight, drunk and disorderly conduct, and resisting apprehension.
3. On 6 December 1971, you received NJP for two specifications of failure to sign restriction papers and violating restriction by being under the influence of alcohol.
4. On 4 February 1972, you received NJP for unauthorized absence (UA) lasting nine days.

5. On 5 July 1972, you commenced on a period of UA that lasted 130 days. Upon your return to military control, you submitted a written request for discharge for the good of the service (GOS) to avoid trial by court-martial for the aforementioned period of UA. Prior to submitting this request, you conferred with a qualified military lawyer, at which time you were advised of your rights and warned of the probable adverse consequences of accepting such a discharge. Your request was accepted and your commanding officer (CO) was directed to issue an Other Than Honorable (OTH) discharge for the GOS. On 4 January 1973, you were so discharged.

After careful review, the Board reached the following conclusions and denied your application for relief.

The Board initially concluded you were appropriately processed for administrative separation based on your record of misconduct. While the Board carefully considered your contention for mitigation, the Board noted you did not deny committing the misconduct. Therefore, the Board determined the presumption of regularity applies to the finding that you committed the misconduct that formed the basis of your administrative separation and were properly separated for misconduct with an OTH characterization of service.

The Board also considered the totality of the circumstances to determine whether equitable relief was warranted in the interests of justice in accordance with the Wilkie Memo. In this regard, the Board considered, amongst other factors, the totality of your service including your Vietnam service and awards¹, your need for veterans' benefits, your relative youth and immaturity at the time of your misconduct, the negative effect your discharge has had on your life, your rehabilitation efforts, your post-service record of accomplishments, your remorse, your service to your community, and the passage of time since your discharge.

The Board found that the mitigating factors were not nearly sufficient to justify any equitable relief. Specifically, the Board found that the severity of your misconduct far outweighed all of the mitigating factors combined. In particular, the Board found that your conduct showed a complete disregard for military authority and regulations. The Board observed you were given multiple opportunities to correct your conduct deficiencies but chose to continue to commit misconduct; which led to your OTH discharge. 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. Further, the Board noted that the misconduct that led to your request to be discharged in lieu of trial by court-martial was substantial and determined that you already received a large measure of clemency when the convening authority agreed to administratively separate you in lieu of trial by court-martial; thereby sparing you the stigma of a court-martial conviction and possible punitive discharge. Moreover, 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. While the Board considered your age and possible need for benefits to address your health concerns, they

¹ You contended that you received a Good Conduct Medal (GCM) during your service. The Board noted the annotation of the GCM on your DD Form 214 is the start date for the GCM three year period based on your last documented incident of misconduct. In order to qualify for the GCM, a service member must complete a consecutive three-year period service without any disqualifying misconduct. Based on your record of misconduct, you did not meet that standard. However, the Board did consider your National Defense Medal and other qualifications earned.

determined the severity of your misconduct outweighed any mitigation resulting from it. Finally, the Board believed that it would be unjust to characterize your less than honorable service in the same manner as the service of the thousands of service members who, unlike you, honorably completed their enlistments without engaging in misconduct warranting the early curtailment of their service. Therefore, while the Board acknowledges your rehabilitation efforts and appreciates your acceptance of responsibility, the Board did not find an upgrade of your discharge to General (Under Honorable Conditions) or Honorable to be warranted in the interests of justice.

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,

2/17/2026

