



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

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Docket No. 9157-25
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 February 2026. The names and votes of the panel members will be furnished upon request. Your allegation of injustice was 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, 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).¹

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 enlisted in the Navy and began a period of active duty service on 4 January 1996.
2. On 11 January 1996, your urinalysis tested positive for cocaine.
3. On 12 January, you were notified that you were being recommended for administrative discharge from the Navy by reason of erroneous enlistment due to a positive urinalysis for cocaine. You were advised of, and waived, your procedural rights; including your rights to

¹ The Board noted you checked the "Other Mental Health" box on your application but did not provide any evidence in support of your claim. In addition, your application did not discuss any mental health issues. Therefore, the Board did not consider your application under the guidance provided in the Kurta memo.

consult with legal counsel and to submit a written statement. The separation authority directed your administrative discharge from the Navy with an uncharacterized entry-level separation for erroneous entry–drug abuse and you were so discharged on 19 January 1996.

In your application to this Board, you express a desire for your discharge character of service be upgraded and contend that:

1. You joined the Navy when you graduated the Job Corps but you went home for a couple weeks after graduating, celebrated with friends, and did some drugs.
2. You are not proud of your actions, believe you made the worst decision of your life, sincerely apologize for your actions, and have regretted it every day.
3. You are working hard looking for a chance at redemption.
4. You are seeking an upgrade to become eligible for healthcare and mental health services.

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 drug abuse and assigned an uncharacterized entry-level separation based on your active duty time in service. While the Board carefully considered your contention for mitigation, the Board noted you admitted to committing the misconduct that formed the basis for your administrative separation and did not dispute your time in service. Therefore, the Board determined the presumption of regularity applies to your administrative separation and no error exists with your record.

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, your desire for an upgrade to your characterization of service, your contentions, your need for veterans' benefits, the non-violent nature of your misconduct, 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 candor and remorse, your claimed mental health issues, your advanced age, 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 determined that your assigned uncharacterized entry-level separation remains appropriate. The Board noted that service regulations direct the assignment of an uncharacterized entry-level separation for service members processed for separation, as you were, within their first 180 days of active duty. While there are exceptions to this policy, the Board found that none applied to you based on the circumstances of your separation. In reviewing the circumstances of your case, the Board was unable to discern any facts that were extraordinary or uniquely different from countless of other former service members who were discharged while in an entry level status. While the Board acknowledged your desire for a

discharge upgrade due to your need for veterans' benefits, it determined the Navy's interest in maintaining consistency in its personnel system outweigh those mitigation factors.

Accordingly, given the totality of the circumstances, the Board determined 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,

3/23/2026

