



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

█  
Docket No. 9232-25  
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 3 March 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 enlisted in the U.S. Navy and entered active duty on 27 January 1998.
2. On 5 February 1998, you were evaluated by medical where you admitted to alcohol use over 1,000 times and cannabis use of 700 times. You were found to be alcohol dependent and notified of administrative separation processing for erroneous enlistment as evidenced by your medical evaluation of alcohol dependence. After you waived your rights, the Commanding Officer (CO) directed that you be discharged with uncharacterized entry level separation due to erroneous entry alcohol abuse and you were so discharged on 13 February 1998.

In your application to this Board, you express a desire for your discharge character of service be upgraded and contend that that you were discharged for a psychiatric evaluation.

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

The Board initially concluded you were appropriately assigned an uncharacterized separation based on your time active duty time in service. The Board noted you do not contest your active duty service dates. 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, 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 your assigned uncharacterized void separation remains appropriate. The Board found 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 ELS status. While the Board acknowledged your desire for a discharge upgrade and the fact your erroneous entry was due to preexisting alcohol dependence, 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 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,

3/20/2026

