



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF NAVAL RECORDS
2 NAVY ANNEX
WASHINGTON DC 20370-5100

CRS
Docket No: 2518-99
3 September 1999

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]:

This is in reference to your application for correction of your naval record pursuant to the provisions of Title 10, United States Code, Section 1552.

A three-member panel of the Board for Correction of Naval Records, sitting in executive session, considered your application on 25 August 1999. Your allegations of error and injustice were reviewed in accordance with administrative regulations and procedures applicable to the proceedings of this Board. Documentary material considered by the Board consisted of your application, together with all material submitted in support thereof, your naval record and applicable statutes, regulations and policies.

After careful and conscientious consideration of the entire record, the Board found that the evidence submitted was insufficient to establish the existence of probable material error or injustice.

The Board found that you enlisted in the Marine Corps on 9 August 1966 at age 17. Your record reflects that on 24 July 1967 you were convicted by a summary court-martial of unauthorized absences totalling 72 days and breaking stragglers orders.

A special court-martial convened on 17 April 1969 and found you guilty of unauthorized absences totalling 306 days. The court sentenced you to confinement at hard labor for six months, forfeitures of \$46 per month for six months, reduction in rate, and a bad conduct discharge. You received the bad conduct discharge on 20 March 1970.

In its review of your application the Board carefully weighed all potentially mitigating factors, such as your youth and immaturity and limited education and the contention that alcohol abuse contributed to your misconduct. However, the Board concluded that these factors were not sufficient to warrant recharacterization of your discharge due to your two disciplinary actions, one of which was a special court-martial for absences

totalling about ten months. Further, alcohol abuse does not excuse misconduct. Based on the foregoing, the Board concluded that no change to the discharge is warranted. Accordingly, your application has been denied. The names and votes of the members of the panel will be furnished upon request.

It is regretted that the circumstances of your case are such that favorable action cannot be taken. You are entitled to have the Board reconsider its decision upon submission of new and material evidence or other matter not previously 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,

W. DEAN PFEIFFER
Executive Director