



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

ELP
Docket No. 980-01
14 June 2001

[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 for the Board for Correction of Navy Records, sitting in executive session, considered your application on 12 June 2001. 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.

You enlisted in the Naval Reserve on 17 August 1987 for eight years at age 19. You were ordered to active on 2 August 1988 for a period of 36 months in the Active Mariner Program.

Your record shows that you were admitted to a naval hospital for evaluation on 27 February 1989. The examining psychiatrist found that you had impulsively cut your wrist after reading a suicide poem from your girlfriend of one week. You gave a history of a similar gesture while in "A" school. Although you were given an opportunity to stay in therapy and work on your issues, you preferred to "get out" and go home to help your girlfriend. You were diagnosed with an unspecified personality disorder with histrionic features. Although you were not currently suicidal, you were considered a potential risk for harm to yourself and others if retained. Immediate separation processing was recommended.

On 19 April 1989 you were notified that administrative separation was being initiated by reason of convenience of the government due to a diagnosed personality disorder. You were advised of your procedural rights and waived those rights. You did not object to the discharge and the discharge authority directed a general discharge. You were so discharged on 28 April 1989 and assigned an RE-4 reenlistment code.

Regulations authorize the assignment of an RE-4 reenlistment code to an individual discharged by reason of a diagnosed personality disorder. Although you supplied the letters of reference and your statement explaining the circumstances which led to your being hospitalized for observation and subsequent discharge, you have provided no medical evidence refuting the Navy's diagnosis of a personality disorder. Since individuals with suicidal ideation pose a potential risk for harm to themselves and others if retained, the Board concluded the assigned reenlistment code was proper and no change is warranted.

The Board did not consider the characterization of your discharge since you have not exhausted your administrative remedies by first applying to the Naval Discharge Review Board. That Board is authorized to change both the reason for discharge and the characterization of discharge. However, it cannot change a reenlistment code. Enclosed is a DD Form 293 used to apply to that board.

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

Enclosure