



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

ELP  
Docket No. 532-02  
16 May 2002

[REDACTED]

[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 Navy Records, sitting in executive session, considered your application on 15 May 2002. 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 Navy on 22 October 1992 for four years at age 20. The medical record reflects that you were advanced to HTFA (E-2) and served without incident until 26 April 1993, when you were referred for a psychological evaluation due to depression and suicidal ideation. You stated "I'd rather be dead than in the Navy" and that you had just returned from a one month cruise where you were seasick, and experienced nightmares. You also reported that you had thoughts of suicide for the past 4-5 months and that about 18 months before this, you placed a loaded revolver to your head. You were diagnosed with an adjustment disorder with depressed mood and a personality disorder with avoidance and immature features. The examining psychologist opined that although you were not imminently suicidal, you were considered to be self-destructive and a potential risk for harm to yourself and others if retained. Administrative separation was recommended.

On 17 May 1993 you were honorably discharged by reason of "Other Physical/Mental Conditions-Personality Disorder" and assigned an RE-4 reenlistment code.

Regulations authorize the assignment of an RE-4 reenlistment code to individuals separated by reason of a diagnosed personality disorder. The Board noted your contention that you do not suffer from depression, a personality disorder, or any other condition which would render you unfit for military service. However, you provide no medical evidence that refutes the Navy's diagnosis. The Navy views individuals who express suicidal ideation with serious concern. Assignment of an RE-4 reenlistment code to such individuals is justified since they pose a risk to harm themselves and others if retained. The Board concluded that the reenlistment code was proper and no change 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