



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

ELP
Docket No. 6039-00
9 February 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 7 February 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.

The Board found that you enlisted in the Navy on 24 November 1998 for four years at age 19. The record reflects that you served without incident until 16 June 1999, when you were referred by your command for a psychiatric evaluation after you disclosed to the command chaplain that you had almost overdosed on Tylenol tablets. You were admitted to a psychiatry ward, where you reported a history of depressed mood and reduced concentration for the past two to three months, feelings of guilt regarding your infant son, anhedonia, decreased energy, sleeping problems, and thoughts of suicide for past month and a half. It was noted that your symptoms were recently exacerbated by an impending deployment and the fact that your estranged girlfriend had "dumped your son on your mother" because she could not afford daycare. You also reported a history of polysubstance abuse, excessive use of alcohol, and prior hospitalizations at ages 14 and 16 for depression and suicide attempts. You were released from treatment the following day with diagnoses of adjustment disorder with depressed mood; alcohol and polysubstance abuse by history; and personality disorder, not otherwise specified, with

dependent, avoidant, and borderline features. Administrative separation by reason of personality disorder was recommended.

On 22 June 1999 you were notified that discharge was being considered by reason of convenience of the government due to a diagnosed personality disorder. You were advised of your procedural rights. After consulting with legal counsel, you elected to have your case reviewed by the general court-martial convening authority (GCMCA). The GCMCA reviewed your case on 14 July 1999 and directed an honorable discharge by reason of personality disorder and assignment of an RE-4 reenlistment code. You were so discharged on 22 July 1999. --

Regulations authorize the assignment of an RE-4 reenlistment code to individuals discharged by reason of personality disorder. The Board noted that individuals who express suicidal ideation, whether in earnest or as a manipulative effort, are viewed with concern because they present a potential risk for harm to themselves and others if retained. You have provided no evidence that the Navy's diagnosis of a personality disorder was erroneous or invalid. The Board concluded that suicidal ideation provided sufficient justification for assignment of an RE-4 reenlistment code. Since you have been treated no differently than others separated under similar circumstances, the Board could find no error or injustice in your assigned reenlistment code. 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