



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

TJR  
Docket No: 8411-01  
18 September 2002

[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 17 September 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. In addition, the Board considered the advisory opinions furnished by the National Naval Medical Center, Department of Psychiatry, a copy of which is attached.

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. In this regard, the Board substantially concurred with the comments contained in the advisory opinion.

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

National Naval Medical Center  
Department of Psychiatry  
Outpatient Division  
Bethesda, Maryland 20889-5600

2 August 2002

From: [REDACTED]

To: [REDACTED]

Via: Chairman, Department of Psychiatry, NNMC #

Subj: APPLICATION FOR CORRECTIONS OF NAVAL RECORDS ICO [REDACTED]

Ref: (a) 10 U.S.C. 1552  
(b) Board of Corrections of Naval Records letter of 15 January 2002 to  
Specialty Advisor for Psychiatry

Encl: (1) BCNR File  
(2) Service Record  
(3) Summary of psychological evaluation dated 9 October 2001 by [REDACTED]

1. Per your request for review of the subject's petition for a correction of his Navy records and in response to reference (b), I have thoroughly reviewed enclosure (1-3). In addition, I spoke with both [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] mc, USN, who evaluated [REDACTED] in boot camp and diagnosed the personality disorder that led to [REDACTED] separation.
2. Review of available medical records revealed;
  - a. Service Member attended two psychiatric evaluations while at Boot Camp. During the evaluations, [REDACTED] endorsed sufficient signs of psychological distress to diagnose an adjustment disorder. These signs included suicidal thoughts, "serious" disturbance of sleep and appetite, persistent high anxiety, change in his self esteem and change in his body weight. He also denied that he had any of these problems prior to enlistment. The mental status exam was consistent with adjustment disorder, including resolution of symptoms when discharge was recommended.
  - b. [REDACTED] examination was notable for the absence of pathology noted, although [REDACTED] scored below average on educational testing that was administered. However, [REDACTED] did not perform any testing or otherwise attempt to assess minimization of emotional concerns. Given that [REDACTED] had an obvious motive not to reveal concerns during the evaluation,

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such an assessment would have made the overall exam results more valuable.

3. Review of the service record revealed:


- a. [REDACTED] arrived at boot camp on 20 August 2001 and was discharged on 29 August 2001. He had been in the delayed entry program prior to enlistment. He denied any significant legal history or psychiatric treatment prior to enlistment.

5. Discussion:

- a. [REDACTED] had clear emotional difficulty during boot camp that interfered with his military performance. He was diagnosed as having a Dependent Personality Disorder and a Learning Disorder and administratively separated for that reason. His evaluation in boot camp clearly documents the problems he had there. However, the evaluation does not provide full support for the personality disorder diagnosis, because there was no documentation of longstanding emotional problems. [REDACTED] civilian evaluation is limited by the absence of information on which to judge its validity. Given this paucity of evidence, I would put the highest of value of what is most clearly documented, which is [REDACTED] emotional difficulty in his previous boot camp experience.

6. Opinion and Recommendations:

- a. There is limited support for the diagnosis of a personality disorder in this case. The post-service examination is not helpful in ruling out the presence of a personality disorder. I recommend no change in [REDACTED] discharge status.

  
Staff Psychiatrist