



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

JRE
Docket No. 05703-03
14 October 2003

[REDACTED]

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This is in reference to your application for correction of your naval record pursuant to the provisions of title 10 of the 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 9 October 2003. 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 reenlisted in the Navy on 26 July 1968. You were convicted by special court-martial on four occasions, and had six periods of unauthorized absence and three periods of confinement, for a total of 335 days time lost. You underwent a pre-separation physical examination on 16 June 1970, and were found qualified for discharge. You did not claim to be suffering from any significant medical conditions at that time, and the physician who conducted the examination did not note any disqualifying conditions. You were discharged by reason of unfitness/frequent incidents of a discreditable nature with military authorities on 18 June 1970, with a general discharge. About thirty years later, a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

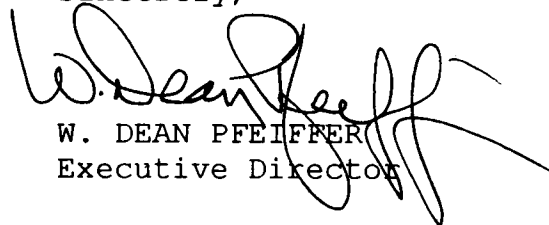
mental health professional gave you a diagnosis of posttraumatic stress disorder; however, the VA denied your claim for service connection for that condition because of the absence of evidence that confirmed your exposure to the reported traumatic events.

The Board rejected your unsubstantiated contention that you were suffering from posttraumatic stress disorder during your final enlistment in the Navy. It noted that you did not complain of any of the hallmark symptoms of that disorder during your Navy service, or for many years thereafter, and there is no indication in your Navy record that you were suffering from a significant mental disorder prior to your discharge. In addition, the Board could not find any connection between your alleged mental disorder, and the multiple acts of misconduct that resulted in your general discharge by reason of unfitness. In addition, it noted that you had a poor disciplinary record during your first enlistment, prior to your exposure to any traumatic events, to include multiple unauthorized absences and nonjudicial punishments, and a conviction by special court-martial of the robbery of a fellow Sailor.

In view of the foregoing, 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