



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

SJN  
Docket No: 08171-07  
3 July 2008

[REDACTED]

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 1 July 2008. 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 the evidence submitted was insufficient to establish the existence of probable material error or injustice.

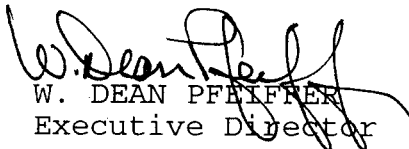
You enlisted in the Navy on 26 May 1982 at age 17. On 23 September 1983, you were convicted by special court-martial (SPCM) of 64 days of unauthorized absence (UA). You were sentenced to confinement at hard labor, a forfeiture of pay, and a reduction in paygrade.

On 5 December 1983, administrative discharge action was initiated by reason of misconduct due to commission of a serious offense. You waived your rights to consult counsel, submit a statement or have your case heard by an administrative discharge board (ADB). On 15 December 1983, you began another period of UA. Your commanding officer declared you a deserter on 20 December 1983, and forwarded his recommendation that you be discharged under other than honorable conditions by reason of misconduct to the separating authority on 21 December 1983. On 29 January 1984, the discharge authority directed an other than honorable discharge by reason of misconduct. On 24 February 1984 you were so discharged in absentia due to your UA status.

The Board, in its review of your application, carefully weighed all potentially mitigating factors, such as your youth and overall record of service. Nevertheless, the Board concluded these factors were not sufficient to warrant recharacterization of your discharge because of your SPCM conviction for a period of UA lasting over two months, and the fact that you were declared a deserter after you were notified of administrative discharge action and subsequently discharged in absentia. Further, you waived the right to an ADB, your best chance for retention or a better characterization of service. 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