



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

SMS
Docket No: 6151-08
19 March 2009

[REDACTED]

[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 18 March 2009. 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.


On 4 June 1992, you enlisted in the Marine Corps at age 20. On 10 March 1993, you were counseled regarding your urinalysis that tested positive for marijuana. On 19 April 1993, you had nonjudicial punishment for use of marijuana. On 27 April 1993, you were provided information about substance abuse treatment available at Veterans' Affairs. On 14 May 1993, your commanding officer initiated administrative separation by reason of misconduct due to drug abuse. In connection with this processing, you acknowledged that separation could result in an other than honorable (OTH) discharge and waived the right to have your case heard by an administrative discharge board (ADB). On 26 May 1993, the separation authority approved the recommendation and directed an OTH discharge by reason of misconduct due to drug abuse. On 18 June 1993, you were so discharged.

The Board, in its review of your entire record and application, carefully weighed all potential mitigation, such as your youth, desire for a better discharge, and regret for your actions. The Board also considered the letter from your wife and your contention that personal problems contributed to your misconduct. Nevertheless, the Board concluded that these factors and contention were not sufficient to warrant recharacterization of your service due to the seriousness of your misconduct. Furthermore, personal problems do

not excuse misconduct. The Board also noted that you waived the right to have your case heard by an ADB, your best opportunity for retention or a more favorable characterization of service. Therefore, the Board concluded that the discharge was proper as issued 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