



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

REC
Docket No: 05445-09
16 April 2010

[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 14 April 2010. 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.

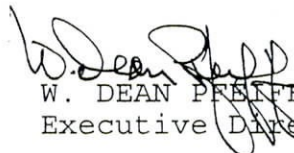
After careful and conscientious consideration of the entire record, the Board found the evidence submitted was insufficient to establish the existence of probable material error or injustice.

You reenlisted in the Navy on 12 November 1983. On 20 September 1984, you received nonjudicial punishment (NJP) for the possession and use of marijuana. On 21 February 1985, you received NJP for two occasions of sexually harassing a female Sailor, assaulting a Sailor and orally communicating language of a sexual nature to a female Sailor. You were counseled and warned that further misconduct could result in administrative discharge action. On 13 June 1985, you received your second NJP for the use of a controlled substance, marijuana. On 29 September 1986, you commenced a period of unauthorized absence (UA) and failed to return to your command until 1 October 1986. Subsequently, you submitted a request for an administrative discharge in order to avoid trial by court-martial for the period of UA. Your request for discharge was granted and on 16 October 1986, you received an other than honorable discharge in lieu of trial by court-martial. As a result of this action, you were spared the stigma of a court-martial conviction and the potential penalties of a punitive discharge and confinement at hard labor.

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 the seriousness of your misconduct. The Board believed that considerable clemency was extended to you when your request for discharge was approved. The Board also concluded that you received the benefit of your bargain with the Navy when your request for discharge was granted and should not be permitted to change it now. Further, you are advised that there is no provision in the law or Navy regulations that allow for recharacterization of your discharge automatically due solely to the passage of time. 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 PRENTER
Executive Director