



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

SJN  
Docket No: 00176-10  
18 October 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 13 October 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 enlisted in the Navy and began a period of active duty on 12 April 1983. You served without incident for over three years until 27 October 1986, when you received nonjudicial punishment (NJP) for wrongful possession and use of cocaine. You were awarded a forfeiture of pay and a reduction in paygrade. Subsequently, administrative discharge action was initiated to separate you by reason of misconduct due to drug abuse. You elected to consult counsel and have your case heard before an administrative discharge board (ADB). On 11 December 1986, the ADB unanimously recommended separation with a general discharge by reason of misconduct due to drug abuse. Your commanding officer concurred with the ADB's findings and forwarded his recommendation that you receive a general discharge. On 31 January 1987, the discharge authority directed a general discharge by reason of misconduct due to drug abuse. On 6 February 1987 you were so discharged.

The Board, in its review of your application, carefully weighed all potentially mitigating factors, such as your youth and record of service. Nevertheless, the Board concluded these factors were not sufficient to warrant recharacterization of your discharge because of the NJP involving drugs. The Board also noted that you were fortunate to receive a general discharge since a discharge under other than honorable conditions is often directed when an individual is discharged for misconduct. 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