



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

TJR  
Docket No: 3696-10  
9 February 2011

[REDACTED]

This is in reference to your application for correction of your naval record pursuant to the provisions of Title 10, 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 8 February 2011. The names and votes of the members of the panel will be furnished upon request. 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 5 August 1991 at age 30 and began a period of active duty on 7 October 1991. You served without disciplinary incident until 4 May 1994, when you received nonjudicial punishment (NJP) for wrongful use of cocaine and two periods of unauthorized absence (UA) totalling three days. About four months later, on 22 September 1994, you were convicted by summary court-martial (SCM) of breaking restriction and two periods of UA totalling 68 days.

On 8 October 1994 you were notified of pending administrative separation action by reason of misconduct due to drug abuse and commission of a serious offense. At that time you waived your right to consult with legal counsel and to present your case to an administrative discharge board (ADB). On 21 October 1994 your commanding officer recommended discharge under other than honorable conditions by reason of misconduct due to drug abuse

and commission of a serious offense. Subsequently, the discharge authority approved this recommendation and directed your commanding officer to issue you an other than honorable discharge by reason of misconduct due to drug abuse, and on 10 December 1994, you were so discharged.

The Board, in its review of your entire record and application, carefully weighed all potentially mitigating factors, such as your period of satisfactory service, post service conduct, desire to upgrade your discharge, and the passage of time. It also considered your character reference letters. Nevertheless, the Board concluded these factors were not sufficient to warrant recharacterization of your discharge because of the seriousness of your drug-related misconduct, and the repeated and lengthy periods of UA from the Navy. Further, you were given an opportunity to defend yourself, but waived your procedural right to present your case to an ADB. Finally, no discharge is automatically upgraded due solely to the passage of time or an individual's good post service conduct. Accordingly, your application has been denied.

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