



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF NAVAL RECORDS
701 S. COURTHOUSE ROAD, SUITE 1001
ARLINGTON, VA 22204-2490

TJR
Docket No: 3415-11
17 January 2012

[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 12 January 2012. 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 23 February 1968 at age 20 and began a period of active duty. You served without disciplinary incident until 27 March 1969, when you received nonjudicial punishment (NJP) for a four day period of unauthorized absence (UA). After undergoing a psychiatric evaluation and as a result of an investigation regarding your use of illegal drugs, on 11 and 14 April 1969 you admitted being a long time user of drugs which included, but was not limited to "grass, speed, heroin, barbiturates, and lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD)" extensively prior to enlistment, and that you enlisted in the Navy because the police were on your trail. Subsequently, you were diagnosed with a passive aggressive personality and recommended for an administrative separation.


On 14 May 1969 you received NJP for failure to observe reveille and failure to obey a lawful order. The punishment imposed was correctional custody for 15 days, which was suspended for six

months. Subsequently, you were processed for an administrative separation by reason of unfitness due to drug abuse. After waiving your procedural rights to consult with legal counsel and to present your case to an administrative discharge board (ADB), your commanding officer recommended discharge under other than honorable conditions by reason of unfitness due to drug abuse. The discharge authority approved this recommendation and directed separation under honorable conditions by reason of unfitness due to drug abuse. On 23 May 1969 you were so discharged and assigned an RE-4 reenlistment code.

The Board, in its review of your entire record and application, carefully weighed all potentially mitigating factors, such as your youth, post service conduct, history of military involvement, and desire to upgrade the characterization of your discharge. Nevertheless, the Board concluded these factors were not sufficient to warrant recharacterization of your discharge because of the seriousness of your misconduct, which resulted in two NJPs, and included an extensive use of drugs. Finally, the Board noted that you were given an opportunity to defend yourself, but waived your procedural right to present your case to an ADB. 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