



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

BAN  
Docket No: 03781-11  
6 February 2012

[REDACTED]

[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 31 January 2012. 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.

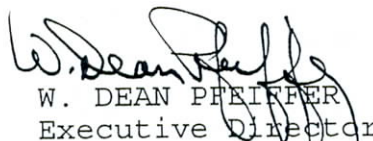
After careful and conscientious consideration of the entire record, the Board found the evidence submitted was insufficient to establish the existence of probable material error or injustice.

You enlisted in the Navy on 4 November 1975, and served without disciplinary incident until 14 September 1977, when you received nonjudicial punishment (NJP) for the illegal use and possession of a controlled substance (hashish). Shortly thereafter, you were in an unauthorized absence status for approximately 163 days which ended when you were apprehended by civil authorities for disorderly conduct. Upon your return, you requested through counsel to be separated for the good of the service (GOS) to avoid a trial by court-martial. Your request was approved and on 10 September 1980, you were separated with an other than honorable (OTH) discharge and an RE-4 (not recommended for retention) reenlistment code. 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 entire record and application, carefully weighed all potentially mitigating factors, such as your youth, claim that you were sexually assaulted while onboard ship that went unreported, and experienced significant mental stress due to various incidents that you believe caused you to develop a post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) that was diagnosed by the Scott County Mental Health Center in 2008. Nevertheless, the Board concluded these factors were not sufficient to warrant recharacterization of your discharge because of the seriousness of your misconduct. Furthermore, the Board believed that considerable clemency was extended to you when your request for discharge to avoid trial by court-martial 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 you should not be permitted to change it now. You are advised that a diagnosis of PTSD 18 years after being discharged does not excuse your 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