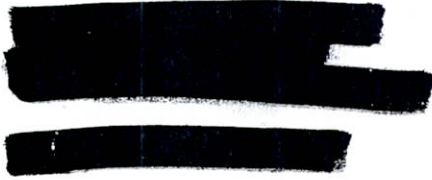




DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF NAVAL RECORDS
701 S. COURTHOUSE ROAD, SUITE 1001
ARLINGTON, VA 22204-2490

SJN
Docket No: 00961-12
3 December 2012



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 29 November 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 Marine Corps and began a period of active duty on 28 July 1980. The Board found that although your record is incomplete, you received four nonjudicial punishments (NJP's) for two instances of disrespect, two instances of disobedience, wrongful possession of marijuana, and unauthorized absence. Subsequently, administrative discharge action was initiated by reason of misconduct due to drug abuse. After being afforded all of your procedural rights, you waived your right to administrative discharge board (ADB). Your case was forwarded recommending that you be discharged under other than honorable (OTH) conditions by reason of misconduct. The separation authority concurred and directed an OTH discharge by reason of misconduct due to drug abuse. On 25 July 1983 you were so discharged.

The Board, in its review of your application, carefully weighed all potentially mitigating factors, such as your youth, record of service, and post service medical issues. Nevertheless, the Board concluded these factors were not sufficient to warrant recharacterization of your discharge given your four NJP's, one

of which was for wrongful drug possession. The Board noted that you waived your right to an ADB, your best chance for retention or a better characterization of service. Accordingly, your application has been denied. The names and votes of the members of the panel will be furnished upon request.

The Board believes that you may be eligible for veterans' benefits that accrued during your first period of service. Whether or not you are eligible for benefits based on either period of service is a matter under the cognizance of the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA). If you have been denied benefits, you should appeal that denial under procedures established by the DVA.

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,



BRIAN J. GEORGE
Head, Discharge Section