



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

BAN  
Docket No. 07574-12  
5 November 2012

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

This is in reference to your application for correction of your naval record pursuant to the provisions of 10 USC 1552.

A three-member panel of the Board for Correction of Naval Records, sitting in executive session, considered your application on 5 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.

The Board notes that you have applied for a correction to your record for an error that allegedly occurred more than 40 years ago. Under the rules governing this Board, an application for a correction of a naval record must be made within three years after the discovery of the alleged error. Failure to file within the prescribed three years may be excused only in cases where the Board finds that it is in the interests of justice to do so.

Marine Corps enlisted advancements are based on a competitive system which considers a variety of performance factors including a candidate's overall performance, technical knowledge, military proficiency, performance of duty, conduct, education, physical fitness, time in service, time in grade, experience, awards, decorations, and the like. Before any candidate may be advanced, the candidate must have the favorable recommendation of their commanding officer. Personnel within each rating (job) compete with each other for a limited number of promotion vacancies. Only those qualified candidates for whom vacancies exist are advanced. In such cases, service record entries are made (often accompanied by a short ceremony

and delivery of a certificate memorializing the advancement) which actually effects the advancement. The absence of a service record showing the effective date of an advancement indicates that a candidate was not actually advanced. However, even though your record shows that you were, in fact, advanced to LCPL, you also received numerous nonjudicial punishments and were found guilty at summary court-martial in which you were reduced in rank to PFC, prior to your discharge.

Therefore, after careful and conscientious consideration of the entire record, the Board determined that there is insufficient evidence of an error or injustice that would warrant any relief. The Board found that it is not in the interests of justice to excuse the three-year time limit in your particular case. You neglected to assert your claim for an inordinately long period of time without justification and due to your frequent acts of misconduct. You have provided no evidence as to why you did not seek to have the alleged error corrected earlier.

Additionally, review of your naval record reveals that you signed a Certificate of Discharge or Release (DD Form 214) which indicates that you were discharged honorably in the rank of PFC. There is no evidence that you were or should have been advanced beyond that rank prior to your discharge. As explained above, a passing score on an advancement exam and/or completion of required training courses alone do not automatically entitle a candidate to advancement.

Based on the circumstances described above, 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,

*for Jonathan S. Proctor*  
 ROBERT D. ZSALMAN  
 Acting Executive Director