



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

TAL
Docket No: 4986-13
31 January 2014

[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 29 January 2014. 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 Marine Corps and began a period of active duty on 10 December 1975 at age 19. On 2 November 1976, you received nonjudicial punishment (NJP) for failure to go to your appointed place of duty. On 3 November 1976, you were convicted by summary court-martial (SCM) of unauthorized absence (UA) from your unit for a period of 21 days. You again received NJP on two occasions for UA from your unit for a period of 23 days and failure to go to your appointed place of duty. On 30 November 1977, you were convicted by special court-martial (SPCM) of UA from your unit for a period of 60 days. The sentence imposed was confinement at hard labor, a forfeiture of pay and a reduction in paygrade. On 20 December 1977, you were UA from your unit until you surrender on 15 March 1978, a period of 85 days. On 23 March 1978, you made a written request for

discharge for the good of service to avoid trial by court-martial for the foregoing period of UA. Prior to submitting this request you conferred with a qualified military lawyer at which time you were advised of your rights and warned of the probable adverse consequences of accepting such a discharge. Your request was granted and the commanding officer directed your other than honorable (OTH) discharge. 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. On 14 April 1978, you were discharged with an OTH characterization of service.

The Board, in its review of your entire record and application carefully weighed all potentially mitigating factors, such as your youth and overall record of service. Nevertheless, the Board concluded these factors were not sufficient to warrant recharacterization of your discharge given the seriousness of your misconduct that resulted in three NJPs, an SCM, an SPCM, periods of UA totaling over six months and request for discharge. The Board believed that considerable clemency was extended to you when your request for discharge to avoid trial by court-martial was approved. Further, the Board concluded that you received the benefit of your bargain with the Marine Corps when your request for discharge was granted and should not be permitted to change it now. 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,



ROBERT D. ZSALMAN
Acting Executive Director