



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

TJR
Docket No: 12782-14
13 February 2015

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

This is in reference to your latest reconsideration request dated 17 November 2014. You previously petitioned the Board and were advised in our letter that your application had been denied.

Your current request has been carefully examined by a three-member panel of the Board for Correction of Naval Records, sitting in executive session on 4 February 2015. The names and votes of the members of the panel will be furnished upon request. Documentary material considered by the Board consisted of your application and any material submitted in support of your application.

After careful and conscientious consideration of the entire record, the Board determined that your assertions of alcohol abuse, depressive symptoms, opiate and cocaine use, lower back pain, and suffering from Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), even though not previously considered by the Board, were insufficient to establish the existence of material error or injustice. The Board determined that your allegations were not enough to outweigh the significant misconduct you committed while serving on active duty. Accordingly, your application has been denied.

Your assertion that you suffered from PTSD was fully and carefully considered by the Board in light of the Secretary of Defense's Memorandum, "Supplemental Guidance to Military Boards for Correction of Military/Naval Records Considering Discharge Upgrade Requests by Veterans Claiming Post Traumatic Stress Disorder" of September 3, 2014. In accordance with the guidance, the Board gave liberal and special consideration to treatment record documentation of PTSD symptoms and Department of Veteran Affairs determinations of the existence of service connected PTSD. In addition, the Board provided liberal consideration to finding PTSD where a service record substantiated the existence of PTSD symptoms or when a civilian provider diagnosed PTSD. After applying these guidelines to the evidence in the case, the Board was not able to substantiate the existence of PTSD in your case.

It is regrettable 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 within one year from the date of the Board's decision. New evidence is evidence not previously considered by the Board prior to making its decision in your case. 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 record, the burden is on the applicant to demonstrate the existence of material error or injustice.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robert J. O'Neill".

ROBERT J. O'NEILL
Executive Director