



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

EGA
Docket No: 2151-14
2 April 2015

[REDACTED]

Dear [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.

Although your application was not filed in a timely manner, the Board found it in the interest of justice to waive the statute of limitations and consider your application on its merits. A three-member panel of the Board for Correction of Naval Records, sitting in executive session, considered your application on 20 March 2015. 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 Navy and began a period of active duty on 16 February 1988. You served without disciplinary incident until 24 March 1989, when you received nonjudicial punishment (NJP) for 26 days of unauthorized absence. On 10 January 1991, you received a second NJP for unauthorized absence, missing movement, and possession of a controlled substance. As a result, you were recommended for an administrative separation by reason of misconduct due to drug abuse. On 25 April 1991, you were discharged with an other than honorable characterization of service.

The Board, in its review of your entire record and application, carefully weighed all potentially mitigating factors, such as your desire to upgrade your character of service and assertion of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) as a reason for your misconduct. Nevertheless, the Board concluded these factors were not sufficient to warrant relief in your case, given your misconduct, which included drug abuse. 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 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 within one year from the date of the Board's decision. 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert J. O'Neill", written in a cursive style.

ROBERT J. O'NEILL
Executive Director