



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

EGA
Docket No: 5327-14
30 July 2015

Dear :

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 15 May 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 Marine Corps and began a period of active duty on 6 December 1977. You served for a month without disciplinary incident, but during the period from 26 January 1978 to 17 August 1978, you received nonjudicial punishment (NJP) on three occasions. Your offenses were unauthorized absence (UA), breaking restriction, and sleeping on post. Shortly thereafter, you began multiple periods of UA for a total of 123 days. In addition to your absences, you were also charged with destruction of government property. As a result, you were referred to a Special Courts-Martial (SPCM). On 25 May 1979, you submitted a request for an undesirable

discharge for good of service to escape trial by courts-martial. On 20 June 1979, 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 the seriousness of your misconduct and request for discharge in order to escape trial by courts-martial. Accordingly, your application has been denied.

Your assertion of PTSD was 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. Based on the guidelines of the memo, the Board determined insufficient evidence exists for a finding of PTSD. In addition, it was their opinion that the seriousness of your misconduct outweighed any mitigation that would be offered by the PTSD.

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