



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

ES
Docket No: 7642-14
28 July 2015

Dear

This is in reference to your application for correction of your naval record pursuant to the provisions of title 10 of the 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 8 July 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 22 August 1988. You served for about one year without disciplinary incident, but on 13 September 1989, you received nonjudicial punishment (NJP) for wrongful use of marijuana and cocaine.

You were notified of pending administrative separation by reason of misconduct due to drug abuse at which time you elected your procedural rights to consult with legal counsel and to present your case to an administrative discharge board (ADB). The ADB recommended discharge under other than honorable conditions by

reason of misconduct due to drug abuse. The discharge authority approved this recommendation and directed separation under other than honorable conditions by reason of misconduct due to drug abuse, and on 30 April 1990, you were so discharged.

The Board, in its review of your entire record and application, carefully weighed all potentially mitigating factors, such as your desire to upgrade your discharge to reflect the same characterization of service as that assigned by the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA), Oakland Regional Office, in their letter dated January 23, 2014. Nevertheless, the Board concluded these factors were not sufficient to warrant relief in your case due to the severity of your repeated drug related misconduct, especially after being advised that such misconduct would result in disciplinary action and/or administrative separation. In regard to your assertion that your naval record should be changed to reflect the same characterization of service that was given by the DVA, be advised that the DVA only has the authority to recharacterize your service for their purposes. In other words, the DVA does not have any jurisdiction to change your naval record. Accordingly, your application has been denied.

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 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 naval record, the burden is on the applicant to demonstrate the existence of probable material error or injustice.

Sincerely,
5 U.S.C 552(b) (6)

ROBERT J. O'NEILL
Executive Director