



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF NAVAL RECORDS  
2 NAVY ANNEX  
WASHINGTON DC 20370-5100

TJR  
Docket No: 4362-01  
19 February 2002

From: Chairman, Board for Correction of Naval Records  
To: Secretary of the Navy

Subj: REVIEW OF NAVAL RECORD OF [REDACTED]

Ref: (a) 10 U.S.C. 1552  
(b) SECNAVINST 1910.4B

Encl: (1) DD Form 149 with attachments  
(2) Case summary  
(3) Subject's naval record

1. Pursuant to the provisions of reference (a), Petitioner, a former enlisted member of the Naval Reserve, filed enclosure (1) with this Board requesting that his discharge be upgraded.

2. The Board, consisting of Messrs. Pfeiffer, Zsalman, and Adams, reviewed Petitioner's allegations of error and injustice on 5 February 2001 and, pursuant to its regulations, determined that the corrective action indicated below should be taken on the available evidence of record. Documentary material considered by the Board consisted of the enclosures, naval records, and applicable statutes, regulations, and policies.

3. The Board, having reviewed all the facts of record pertaining to Petitioner's allegations of error and injustice finds as follows:

a. Before applying to this Board, Petitioner exhausted all administrative remedies available under existing law and regulations within the Department of the Navy.

b. Although it appears that enclosure (1) was not filed in a timely manner, it is in the interest of justice to waive the statute of limitations and review the application on its merits.

c. Petitioner enlisted in the Navy on 17 November 1964 at the age of 22. During his period of enlistment Petitioner received nonjudicial punishment (NJP) for breach of peace.

d. On 1 June 1966, during a medical examination, Petitioner admitted to participating in homosexual acts while under the influence of alcohol.

e. On 1 July 1966 Petitioner was apprehended by military authorities for participating in homosexual acts in a cave while on base. Petitioner also received nonjudicial punishment (NJP) on this date for breach of peace and was awarded a \$50 forfeiture of pay.

f. On 24 October 1966 the Bureau of Naval Personnel (BUPERS) directed discharge under other than honorable conditions by reason of unfitness. On 8 November 1966 Petitioner was so discharged. At the time of his discharge Petitioner's conduct and proficiency averages were 3.3 and 3.2, respectively.

g. Character of service is based, in part, on conduct and overall trait averages which are computed from marks assigned during periodic evaluations. Averages of 3.0 in conduct and 2.7 in overall traits were required at the time of Petitioner's separation for a fully honorable characterization of service.

h. Reference (b) sets forth the Department of the Navy's current policies, standards, and procedures for administratively separating enlisted service members. With regard to homosexuality, reference (b) declares such behavior to be incompatible with Naval Service. It provides Navy and Marine Corps officials with the authority to involuntarily separate those service members who commit a homosexual act or acts. If separated, the service member's discharge and character of service must be based on his or her total performance of duty and conduct. Reference (b) expressly prohibits the issuance of a discharge under conditions other than honorable unless the homosexual act is committed under one of the following circumstances:

- (1) By using force, coercion, or intimidation;
- (2) with a person under 16 years of age;
- (3) with a subordinate in circumstances that violate customary naval superior-subordinate relationships;
- (4) openly in public view;
- (5) for compensation;
- (6) aboard a naval vessel or aircraft; or
- (7) in another location subject to military control under aggravating circumstances noted in the finding that have an adverse impact on discipline, good order, or morale comparable to the impact of such activity aboard a vessel or aircraft.

CONCLUSION:

Upon review and consideration of all the evidence of record, the Board concludes that Petitioner's request warrants favorable action.

Based on Petitioner's overall record of service and current Department of the Navy policy as established in reference (b) and its radical departure from the policy which was in effect on 8 November 1966, the date of Petitioner's discharge, the Board concludes that it would be in the interest of justice to retroactively apply the standards of reference (b) to Petitioner's case. Using the standards of reference (b) the Board finds that given Petitioner's final conduct and proficiency averages, relief in the form of recharacterization to an honorable discharge is appropriate.

RECOMMENDATION:

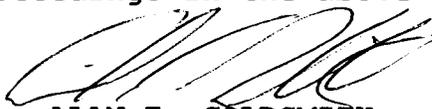
a. That Petitioner's naval record be corrected to show that he was issued a honorable discharge on 8 November 1966 vice the undesirable discharge actually issued on that date.

b. That a copy of this Report of Proceedings be filed in Petitioner's naval record.

c. That, upon request, the Veterans Administration be informed that Petitioner's application was received by the Board on 29 May 2001.

4. It is certified that a quorum was present at the Board's review and deliberations, and that the foregoing is a true and complete record of the Board's proceedings in the above entitled matter.

ROBERT D. ZSALMAN  
Recorder



ALAN E. GOLDSMITH  
Acting Recorder

5. Pursuant to the delegation of authority set out in Section 6(e) of the revised Procedures of the Board for Correction of Naval Records (32 Code of Federal Regulation, Section 723.6(e)) and having assured compliance with its provisions, it is hereby announced that the foregoing corrective action, taken under the authority of reference (a), has been approved by the Board on behalf of the Secretary of the Navy.



W. DEAN PFEIFFER  
Executive Director

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