



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

[REDACTED]
Docket No. 4198-22
Ref: Signature Date

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

Subj: REVIEW OF NAVAL RECORD OF FORMER MEMBER [REDACTED],
USN, [REDACTED]

Ref: (a) 10 U.S.C. § 1552

Encl: (1) DD Form 149
(2) Case summary
(3) Advisory Opinion dated 3 February 2023

1. Pursuant to the provisions of reference (a), Subject, hereinafter referred to as Petitioner, filed enclosure (1) with the Board for Correction of Naval Records (Board), requesting addition of awards missing on his Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214). Enclosures (1) through (3) apply.

2. The Board, consisting of [REDACTED], [REDACTED], and [REDACTED], reviewed Petitioner's allegations of error and injustice on 13 March 2023, 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, relevant portions of his naval service records, and applicable statutes, regulations, and policies. Additionally, the Board considered enclosure (3), the 3 February 2023 Advisory Opinion (AO) furnished by the Navy Department Board of Decorations and Medals (NDBDM). Although Petitioner was provided an opportunity to respond to the AO, he chose not to do so.

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 enclosure (1) was not filed in a timely manner, it is in the interest of justice to review the application on its merits.

c. Petitioner enlisted in the Navy and began a period of active duty on 25 August 1966.

d. Petitioner was assigned to the [REDACTED] from a period beginning on 29 November 1966 to 22 May 1967.

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e. On 5 December 1969, Petitioner was honorably discharged from the Navy by reason of released from active duty and transferred to the Naval Reserves.

f. On 6 June 1994, the Bureau of Naval Personnel (PERS-313E) determined that petitioner is entitled to the following awards: the National Defense Service Medal (NDSM), the Vietnam Service Medal (VSM), the Presidential Unit Citation (PUC) with one bronze star, the Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon, the Combat Action Ribbon (CAR), the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with 1960- device, the Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation Gallantry Cross w/ Palm, and the Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit (Citation Civil Action Medal with Palm).

g. On 3 February 2023, the Navy Department Board of Decorations and Medals (NDBDM) completed a review of the Petitioner's record and provided an Advisory Opinion (AO) which determined the former member is entitled to the is entitled to the CAR, the PUC with one bronze star, the NDSM, the VSM with four bronze campaigns stars and FMF Combat Ops Insignia, the Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation-Civic Action (RVN MUC CA), and the Vietnam Campaign Medal (VCM). Further, the NDBDM AO recommended that the following awards should be deleted from the Petitioner's DD Form 214: the Navy Unit Commendation (NUC), and the Vietnam Service Medal with FMF device and one bronze star.

h. Petitioner contends he is missing the following awards on his DD Form 214: two PUCs, two additional NUCs (for a total of 3), and one Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation (Civil Action Medal, First Class Color w/Palm). Petitioner states this correction should be made because these are awards he earned while being on the [REDACTED] as a cook striker, and from being a U.S. Navy Corpsman attached to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] CO'S of the [REDACTED] MAR BN, [REDACTED] MAR, [REDACTED] MAR DIV in the Vietnam War.

CONCLUSION:

Upon review and consideration of the evidence of record, the Board determined Petitioner's request warrants partial relief. The Board relied heavily on enclosure (3) in making its findings. In light of the NDBDM AO, in addition to the awards already documented in his record, the Board determined the Petitioner is entitled the Presidential Unit Citation with one bronze star, and the Vietnam Service Medal with FMF device and four bronze stars.

Further, the Board concurred with the NDBDM AO recommendation which determined that the following awards should be deleted from the Petitioner's DD Form 214: the NUC, and the VSM with FMF device and one bronze star.

RECOMMENDATION:

In view of the above, the Board directs the following corrective action:

That Petitioner be issued a Correction to Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 215) with the following corrections: add the Presidential Unit Citation with one bronze star, and the Vietnam Service Medal with FMF device and four bronze stars.

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That the following awards be deleted from the Petitioner's DD Form 214: the Navy Unit Commendation (NUC), and the Vietnam Service Medal with FMF device and one bronze star.

That a copy of this report of proceedings be filed in Petitioner's naval record.

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.

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.

3/30/2023

