



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

█  
Docket No. 6720-22

Ref: Signature Date

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

Subj: REVIEW OF NAVAL RECORD OF FORMER MEMBER █  
XXX XX █

Ref: (a) 10 U.S.C. 1552  
(b) SECNAVINST 1650.1A CH-4 (Navy and Marine Corps Awards Manual)  
(c) SECNAV M-1650.1 (Navy and Marine Corps Awards Manual)

Encl: (1) DD Form 149 with attachments  
(2) Case summary

1. Pursuant to the provisions of reference (a), the surviving son of a former enlisted Marine (collectively, "Petitioner"), filed enclosure (1) requesting a change to his late father's U.S. Marine Corps Report of Separation (NAVMC 78-PD) dated 7 March 1946, to reflect his entitlement to certain awards earned during his World War II era service. Petitioner's original service number was █

2. The Board, consisting of █, █, and █, reviewed Petitioner's allegations of error and injustice on 5 May 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 Petitioner's application together with all material submitted in support thereof, relevant portions of Petitioner's naval record, and applicable statutes, regulations, and policies, to include references (b) and (c). Additionally, the Board also considered an advisory opinion (AO) furnished by the Navy Department Board of Decorations and Medals (NDBDM) dated 25 April 2023.

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, and although enclosure (1) was not filed by Petitioner in a timely manner, the Board found it in the interest of justice to waive the statute of limitations and consider his application on its merits.

b. The Petitioner served in the U.S. Marine Corps on active duty from 8 April 1943 to 7 March 1946, and he earned an Honorable discharge upon his release from active duty. The Petitioner was assigned to the █ and served with either the

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XXX XX [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] While serving with the [REDACTED] Petitioner performed duties as a mortar crewman. Petitioner landed on [REDACTED] on 1 April 1945 with a [REDACTED] - the first day of the battle - and participated in action against enemy Japanese forces as a mortar crewman for the duration of the entire battle.

c. The Petitioner's original service record jacket reflects entitlement to the following three awards:

- 1) American Campaign Medal;
- 2) Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with one bronze star device [REDACTED]; and
- 3) World War II Victory Medal.

Neither the Petitioner's NAVMC 78-PD, nor elsewhere in his service record, reflected any entitlement to the Combat Action Ribbon (CAR), the Presidential Unit Citation (PUC), the China Service Medal (CSM), or the Navy Occupation Service Medal (NOSM) (incorrectly claimed by the Petitioner to be the Japanese Occupation Medal).

d. As part of the review process, the NDBDM reviewed Petitioner's contentions and the available records and issued an AO on 25 April 2023. The NDBDM opined after reviewing the available evidence and pertinent regulations that the Petitioner was entitled to the PUC, the CSM, and the CAR, but unfortunately was not entitled to the NOSM.

e. The NDBDM noted that [REDACTED], Reinforced was awarded the PUC for extraordinary heroism in action against enemy Japanese forces during the assault and capture of [REDACTED] from 1 April to 21 June 1945. The NDBDM noted that this PUC included [REDACTED] as a participating unit, and the Petitioner was assigned to [REDACTED] at all relevant times. Thus, the NDBCM concluded that Petitioner was entitled to the PUC.

f. The NDBDM noted that the CSM was awarded to members who were attached to, present, and served on permanent duty with units credited by the Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) with having participated in operations in [REDACTED] from 7 July 1937 to 7 September 1939, and from 2 September 1945 to 1 April 1957. The NDBDM noted the [REDACTED] was credited with the CSM for service during the Petitioner's assignment period from 11 October 1945 to 26 March 1946. Thus, the NDBDM concluded that the Petitioner was entitled to the CSM.

g. The NDBDM noted that the NOSM was awarded to members who were attached to, present, and served on permanent duty with units credited by the SECNAV with having performed duty in the occupation of enemy, or former enemy, national territory during designated periods. For the [REDACTED] area, the NOSM period of eligibility was from 2 September 1945 to 27 April 1952, and the land area of eligibility included [REDACTED], recognized [REDACTED], parts of [REDACTED] and adjacent islands recognized to be [REDACTED] but exclusive of all the mandated territory formerly administered by [REDACTED], territories under the governmental control of the [REDACTED], or [REDACTED]. The NDBDM noted that

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XXX XX [REDACTED]

the Petitioner served in [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] during this period and [REDACTED] was not listed as authorized the NOSM by SECNAV. Thus, the NDBDM concluded that the Petitioner was not entitled to the NOSM.

h. References (b) and (c) list the eligibility requirements for the CAR. The principal eligibility criterion is, regardless of military occupational specialty or rating, the individual must have rendered satisfactory performance under enemy fire while actively participating in a ground or surface engagement. The Board noted that neither service in a combat area, nor even being awarded the Purple Heart Medal automatically makes a service member eligible for the CAR. Notwithstanding, the Board noted that [REDACTED] was awarded the PUC for extraordinary heroism in action against enemy Japanese forces on [REDACTED]. Thus, the Board concurred with the AO that the totality of the evidence determined that Petitioner earned the CAR for his actions against enemy forces on [REDACTED].

i. Accordingly, the Board determined that the Petitioner is additionally entitled to the PUC, the CSM, and the CAR, but not entitled to receive the NOSM. The Board concluded that their decision was consistent with current awards guidance as outlined in references (b) and (c).

#### CONCLUSION:

Upon review and consideration of all the evidence of record, the AO, and the Board's own independent analysis, the Board determined that Petitioner's request warrants partial relief.

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

#### RECOMMENDATION:

That Petitioner be issued a "Correction to DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty" (DD Form 215) for the period of service ending 7 March 1946, to indicate the entitlement to the following decorations, medals, badges, commendations, citations, and campaign ribbons:

- 1) Combat Action Ribbon;
- 2) Presidential Unit Citation;
- 3) China Service Medal;
- 4) American Campaign Medal;
- 5) Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with one bronze star device (Okinawa); and
- 6) World War II Victory Medal.

Following the corrections to the NAVMC 78-PD, for the period ending 7 March 1946, indicating the revised entitlement to Petitioner's decorations, medals, badges, commendations, citations, and campaign ribbons, that all other information currently listed on such NAVMC 78-PD remain the same.

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XXX XX [REDACTED]

That in the event that Petitioner's NAVMC 78-PD is obsolete and cannot be corrected through the use of a DD Form 215, that Petitioner be issued a new DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty reflecting the cumulative recommended corrections above, to include the awards as originally listed on Petitioner's NAVMC 78-PD or elsewhere in his service record book.

That Petitioner be issued and/or reissued all new awards he is entitled to receive.

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 Regulations, 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.

5/8/2023

[REDACTED]

Executive Director

Signed by: [REDACTED]