



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

[REDACTED]  
Docket No. 8625-22

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], USNR,  
XXX-XX-[REDACTED]

Ref: (a) 10 U.S.C. §1552

Encl: (1) DD Form 149 with attachments  
(2) Case summary  
(3) Advisory Opinion of 21 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 that he be awarded the National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) and the Vietnam Service Medal (VSM) and that it be reflected on his Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214).

2. The Board, consisting of [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], reviewed Petitioner's allegations of error and injustice on 15 March 2023, and, pursuant to its regulations, determined 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, 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 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 U.S. Navy Reserve and commenced active duty on 11 March 1964. His record reflects that he commenced a present continuous tour of sea duty onboard USS [REDACTED] on 11 June 1964. While stationed onboard, the USS [REDACTED], the ship was awarded the Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon (NUC) for their support of operations in the Gulf of [REDACTED] during the period of 2-5 August 1964.

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d. Petitioner was discharged on 7 March 1966, with an Honorable discharge after the expiration of active obligated service.

e. In light of the Petitioner's request that he be awarded the NDSM and VSM, the Board requested enclosure (3). The AO stated in pertinent part:

In response to reference (a), a review of Subject Name Veteran's (SNV) Official Military Personnel File (OMPF) and supporting documentation was conducted for a determination of his entitlement to the National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) and the Vietnam Service Medal (VSM). SNV served honorably during the authorized period of time to earn the NDSM. This is considered an administrative oversight and can be corrected by this office. SNV was awarded the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (AFEM) for service in Vietnam. SNV may elect the VSM in lieu of the AFEM, however, no person shall be entitled to both awards for the same service.

#### CONCLUSION:

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

The Board determined it was in the interests of justice to properly document the awards earned while he was on active duty service. Therefore, the Board concluded the Navy shall award the Petitioner the NDSM, VSM, and NUC. However, the Board concurred with the AO that Petitioner was not entitled to both AFEM and VSM. Therefore, the Board determined Petitioner's AFEM shall be removed from his record.

#### RECOMMENDATION:

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

That Petitioner be issued a Correction to DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 215) reflecting his entitlement to the NDSM, VSM and NUC and removing his entitlement to the AFEM.

No further changes be made to Petitioner's record.

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

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corrective action, taken under the authority of reference (a), has been approved by the Board on behalf of the Secretary of the Navy.

3/23/2023

[REDACTED]

Executive Director

Signed by: [REDACTED]