DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

Application for Correction of Coast Guard Record of:

BCMR Docket No. 1999-131

FINAL DECISION

This is a proceeding under the provisions of section 1552 of title 10 and section 425 of title 14, United States Code. It was docketed on June 9, 1999, upon the BCMR's receipt of the applicant's complete application for correction of his military record.

This final decision, dated January 13, 2000, is signed by the three duly appointed members who were designated to serve as the Board in this case.

The applicant, an aviation mechanic technician second class (AMT2; pay grade E-5), asked the Board to correct his record to show that he reenlisted for six years on March 9, 1999, (his sixth year active duty anniversary date) so that he would be eligible to receive a Zone A selective reenlistment bonus (SRB), in accordance with ALDIST 290/98.

On March 9, 1993, the applicant enlisted in the Coast Guard for four years. On March 1, 1997, the applicant began serving on an extension of his enlistment that covered a period of one year. On April 9, 1998, he began serving on a second extension of his enlistment that covered a period of one year and eleven months.

EXCERPTS FROM THE RECORD AND SUBMISSIONS

The applicant stated that he was not counseled, prior to his sixth year active duty anniversary date (March 9, 1999), that he could request to be discharged and immediately reenlisted for the purpose of obtaining an SRB. He stated that he did not realize that such a reenlistment would have enabled him to receive the Zone A SRB that was in effect at that time for aviation mechanic technicians.

The applicant's military record does not contain any administrative remarks (page 7) entries showing that he was counseled about his SRB eligibility or that he understood the SRB policy.

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Views of the Coast Guard

On November 19, 1999, the Board received an advisory opinion from the Chief Counsel of the Coast Guard. The Chief Counsel recommended that the Board grant relief to the applicant.

The Chief Counsel stated that "the applicant took prompt and appropriate action to rectify the alleged error after its discovery and is willing to offer a new 6-year reenlistment as consideration for the SRB he requests."

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The Board makes the following findings and conclusions on the basis of the applicant's submissions and military record, the Coast Guard's submission, and applicable law:

1. The Board has jurisdiction concerning this matter pursuant to section 1552 of title 10, United States Code. The application was timely.

2. The Board finds that the applicant was not properly counseled, that three months prior to his sixth year active duty anniversary date, he could have been discharged from his current enlistment and immediately reenlisted for up to six years to obtain a Zone A SRB. Enclosure (1), Para. 3.d.(9), COMDTINST 7220.33.

3. March 9, 1999, was the applicant's sixth year active duty anniversary date. There was an SRB multiple of 1 in effect on that date for members in the AMT rating.

4. The Board finds that the applicant's record should be corrected to show that he reenlisted for six years on March 9, 1999, his sixth year active duty anniversary date, for the purpose of obtaining a Zone A SRB.

5. The Coast Guard concurs in this grant of relief.

6. Accordingly, the applicant's request should be granted.

Final Decision: BCMR No. 1999-131

ORDER

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The application of

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his military record is granted. His record shall be corrected to show that he was discharged on March 9, 1999, and immediately reenlisted on the same date for a period of six years to obtain a Zone A SRB with the appropriate multiple. The Coast Guard shall pay the applicant the amount due him as a result of this correction.

