

**DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY  
BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS**

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Application for the Correction of  
the Coast Guard Record of:

**BCMR Docket No. 2024-023**

  
IT2

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**FINAL DECISION**

This proceeding was conducted according to the provisions of 10 U.S.C. § 1552 and 14 U.S.C. § 2507. The Chair docketed the case after receiving the applicant's completed application on March 6, 2024 and this decision of the Board was prepared pursuant to 33 C.F.R. § 52.61(c).

This final decision dated February 27, 2025 is approved and signed by the three duly appointed members who were designated to serve as the Board in this case.

**APPLICANT'S REQUEST AND ALLEGATIONS**

The applicant, an Information Systems Technician, second class (IT2) currently serving in the Selected Reserve (SELRES), asked the Board to correct his record to show that he signed a six-year SELRES enlistment contract to receive a \$2000 bonus. He stated that a few days before he was released from active duty (RELAD) he was told via email by YNC G that he was eligible for a \$2000 bonus if he agreed to enlist in the SELRES for a term of six years. The applicant stated that he emailed the YNC questions about the bonus but never heard back. Finally, he stated that in 2023 he was told by YNCS S that he could submit an application to the BCMR in an effort to get the bonus.

In support of his request, the applicant submitted a copy of emails to and from the YNC which show that he was told about the bonus but never heard back from the YNC. He also submitted emails to and from the YNCS, in which the applicant alleged that he was not properly counseled about his eligibility for the bonus. In the emails, the YNCS suggests that the applicant apply to the BCMR in an effort to get the bonus.

**SUMMARY OF THE RECORD**

The applicant enlisted in the Coast Guard Reserve under the Delayed Entry/Enlistment

Program (DEP) on November 16, 2017 for a term of eight years, with four years to be served on active duty and the remaining four to be served in the Reserve component of the Coast Guard. The enlistment contract states that his active-duty service would begin on January 23, 2018 with an end of enlistment (EOE) date of January 22, 2022 and his reserve obligation termination date would be November 15, 2025.

On May 3, 2022,<sup>1</sup> the applicant completed a Career Intentions Worksheet. In block 6 he indicated he wanted to enlist in the CG Reserve, but in block 7 he selected “other - below” for the desired contract length. In the remarks block he further indicated “Respectfully requesting SELRES for the shortest possible period. Worksheet appears to disallow one-year request.”

On July 19, 2022, YNC G from the U.S. Coast Guard Recruiting Command sent the applicant an email telling him that he was eligible to receive a \$2000 bonus if he agreed to enlist in the SELRES for six years. The applicant responded via email on July 20, 2022 and asked YNC if signing an enlistment contract would commit him to one unit.

The applicant was released from active duty (RELAD) on July 22, 2022, and upon separation he became a member of the SELRES and was assigned to Base Detachment St. Louis, a unit within District 8.

The applicant received another email from the YNC on July 22, 2022 asking if he had made a decision about the bonus. He responded on the same day and said that he was busy unpacking from his Permanent Change of Station (PCS) and asked how soon he would have to decide. On July 27, 2022 he emailed the YNC again, stating that he had not had enough time to consider the enlistment bonus. The YNC did not respond to this email from the applicant.

On August 22, 2023 the applicant received an email from YNCS S asking if he would like assistance submitting an application to the BCMR to get the bonus. On the same day, the applicant responded to the YNCS via email and stated that he would like his assistance in obtaining the bonus.

On September 12, 2023 the applicant sent another email to YNCS S and stated the following:

I was able to locate my correspondence re: the SELRES bonus last year. Attached is the email exchange. After being offered the request, I replied twice asking for more information, including for a response deadline, and one last time stating that I hadn't had time to properly consider the offer. Neither of my requests for more information were acknowledged. The exchange took course over 8 days, starting while I was still technically on active duty.

The basis for my appeal would be that I did not have proper counseling. The information I received was that there was a "2K (pretax) bonus by obligating 6 years", and that my response was necessary "to complete [the counselor's] report". I was not informed of a 6-month window.

I went to the local station to log onto the USCG network and search for COMDTINST 7220.2(series) and ALCOAST COMDT NOTICE, as I am blocked from accessing search results

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<sup>1</sup> The applicant's EOE date was January 22, 2022, so the Board presumes that he signed an extension contract at some point before his EOE date. There is no extension contract in the record.

using OneDrive on a non-Coast Guard workstation. For COMDTINST 7220.2(series), I found CIM 7220 29D and PSC-OPM - MI000.4. For ALCOAST COMDT NOTICE, I found this ALCOAST, but was unable to open it. Are these the correct documents I need to consult in order to start an appeal?

On September 13, 2023 the applicant received an email response from YNCS S who stated that the applicant should submit an application to the BCMR and allege that he was not properly counseled about his eligibility to enlist in the SELRES for the \$2000 bonus. There is no Page 7 in his regarding documenting counseling about the bonus.

### **VIEWS OF THE COAST GUARD**

On January 22, 2025 a judge advocate (JA) of the Coast Guard submitted an advisory opinion and adopted the findings and analysis in a memorandum submitted by the Commander, Personnel Service Center (PSC). The JA stated that it appears the applicant was not properly counseled on his opportunity to receive a \$2000 affiliation bonus as evidenced by the emails sent to him by the In-Service Transfer Team (ISTT). Accordingly, the JA recommended that the applicant's request to receive a \$2000 bonus should be granted, but only if he agrees to execute a backdated enlistment contract for a service length of six years to meet the bonus' obligated service (OBLISERV) eligibility requirement.

### **APPLICANT'S RESPONSE TO THE VIEWS OF THE COAST GUARD**

On January 23, 2025 the Chair sent the applicant a copy of the Coast Guard's views and invited him to respond within 30 days. He responded on February 5, 2025, and agreed with the Coast Guard's recommendation.

### **APPLICABLE REGULATIONS**

Section K.1.b.2 of ALCOAST COMMANDANT NOTICE (ACN) 109/21 states that a \$2000 single lump sum affiliation bonus is authorized for members entering the SELRES (via initial enlistment, affiliation, or prior service) for a term of 6 years and assigned to a unit within Districts 8, 9, and 13. The ACN was in effect from October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022. The ACN states that the bonuses are incentives to encourage the recruitment, proficiency, and retention of individuals in designated ratings and units.

Section K.1.c. of ACN 109/21 states that the date determining bonus eligibility is the signature date of the written obligation from the member to serve in the SELRES. Written obligation will be documented on the applicable Administrative Remarks form (Page 7).

### **FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

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

1. The Board has jurisdiction concerning this matter pursuant to 10 U.S.C. § 1552. The application was timely.

2. The applicant argued that he was not timely counseled about his eligibility to receive a \$2000 bonus for signing a six-year SELRES enlistment contract following his separation from active duty. When considering allegations of error and injustice, the Board begins its analysis by presuming that the disputed information in the applicant's military record is correct as it appears in his record, and the applicant bears the burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence that the disputed information is erroneous or unjust.<sup>5</sup> Absent evidence to the contrary, the Board presumes that Coast Guard officials and other Government employees have carried out their duties "correctly, lawfully, and in good faith."<sup>6</sup>

3. The applicant's record shows that he began active Coast Guard service on January 23, 2018, and started serving in the SELRES in District 8 immediately upon his RELAD on July 22, 2022. At the time of his RELAD, ACN 109/21 was in effect and provided a \$2000 bonus to members who signed a six-year SELRES enlistment contract within six months of separation and agreed to serve in Districts 8, 9, or 13. The record also shows that he was contacted several times by various yeoman regarding the bonus but was unable to get timely answers to his questions about the bonus and its requirements. Finally, there is no Page 7 in his record to document counseling about the bonus, as required by Section 1.c. of ACN 109/21.

4. The Board finds that the applicant has proved by a preponderance of the evidence that he was not timely counseled about his eligibility to sign a six-year SELRES contract within six months of his RELAD to receive the \$2000 bonus. If he had been properly counseled, then he would have been told that pursuant to ACN 109/21 he could sign a six-year SELRES contract prior to September 30, 2022 to receive a \$2000 bonus if he agreed to serve in District 8, 9, or 13. The record shows that the applicant had already agreed to serve in the SELRES upon his RELAD and had agreed to serve in District 8, so the Board is persuaded that he would have signed a six-year SELRES contract if he had been properly counseled about the bonus.

5. Accordingly, the applicant's record should be corrected to show that he signed a six-year SELRES contract on July 23, 2022 to receive a \$2000 bonus pursuant to ACN 109/21.

**(ORDER AND SIGNATURES ON NEXT PAGE)**

**ORDER**

The application of IT2 [REDACTED], USCGR, for correction of his military record is granted as follows. The Coast Guard shall correct his record to show that he signed a six-year SELRES enlistment contract on July 23, 2022 to receive a \$2000 bonus pursuant to ACN 109/21.

February 27, 2025

