

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

Application for the Correction of
the Coast Guard Record of:

BCMR Docket No. 2025-086


BM2/E5

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 26, 2025, and this decision of the Board was prepared pursuant to 33 C.F.R. § 52.61(c).

This final decision, dated February 12, 2026, 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, a Boatswain's Mate¹ Second Class (BM2) on active duty, asked the Board to correct his record to show that he is eligible to receive the \$35,000 Selected Reenlistment Bonus (SRB)² that he was promised for signing a six-year reenlistment contract on September 30, 2022. He stated that shortly after signing the contract he was told that he would only receive a \$20,000 bonus. The applicant alleged that he is eligible for the full \$35,000 bonus because on September 22, 2006 he was counseled by his Officer In Charge (BMC P) on a Page 7³ that he would receive the \$35,000 bonus if he signed a six-year reenlistment contract. In support of his allegation he submitted a copy of the Page 7 and the reenlistment contract. He also submitted a copy of letter

¹ Boatswain's Mates are experts at navigating vessels and have the most command leadership opportunities of any rating. When operating a boat as coxswain, BMs are in charge of executing the mission and are responsible for the safety of the crew members. <https://www.gocoastguard.com/careers/enlisted/bm> (last viewed on February 4, 2026).

² The Selective Reenlistment Bonus (SRB) Program allows a reenlistment incentive to be offered to members who possess highly desired skills or are in eligible ratings, and meet specific time in service requirements, as identified in this Instruction or the authorizing ALCOAST. For the purpose of defining eligibility periods within the first 14 years of active service, three zones of consideration are established. Zone A is defined as the period from 17 months through 6 years of active service. Article 2.F.1 of COMDTINST 7220.2A, the Military Bonus and Incentive Programs manual.

³ All personnel with 10 years or less of active service who reenlist or commit to service obligation for any period, however brief, will be counseled on the SRB program. An Administrative Remarks, Form CG-3307, service record entry outlining the effect that particular action has on SRB entitlement will be signed by the member. If necessary, commanding officers will elaborate in the Administrative Remarks entry to cover specific cases of questionable SRB eligibility. Article 2.D.1.a. of the Military Bonus and Incentive Programs manual.

that he sent to the Coast Guard requesting to be paid the \$35,000 that he had agreed to; a letter from the BMC P to the Commandant supporting the waiver request; a letter from CAPT F endorsing the request; and the Coast Guard's reply denying his request for the \$35,000 bonus.

SUMMARY OF THE RECORD

The applicant enlisted in the Coast Guard on October 30, 2018, for a term of four years, with an End of Enlistment (EOE) of October 29, 2022. He advanced to BM2 on September 1, 2022.

On September 26, 2022 the applicant signed three separate Page 7s to document that he had been counseled about his eligibility to reenlist for an SRB pursuant to ACN 104/21.⁴ The Page 7s state that he was eligible to receive a \$35,000 Zone A SRB if he signed a six-year reenlistment contract on or any time prior to his EOE date [October 29, 2022] within the fiscal year⁵ for which an SRB is offered.

On September 30, 2022 the applicant completed a Career Intentions worksheet indicating that he intended to reenlist for six years to receive an SRB. On the same day he signed a six-year reenlistment contract and it states that he is eligible to receive a Zone A SRB in accordance with ACN 104/21. The applicant was a BM2 at the time he signed the reenlistment contract.

The applicant's September 30, 2022 reenlistment contract was cancelled and he signed another six-year reenlistment contract on October 30, 2022 and was promised a FY23 SRB (\$20,000).

On January 9, 2023 the applicant sent a memo to the Commandant asking for an exception to policy so he could receive the \$35,000 that he was originally promised.

On January 12, 2023 the BMC who prepared the Page 7s and counseled the applicant that he was eligible to reenlist for the \$35,000 bonus sent a memo to the Commandant asking for an exception to policy so the applicant could be paid the \$35,000 that he was promised. He stated the following:

After review it is apparent that BM2 Hendrickson-Belloquet was miscounseled and agreed to re-enlist based on his belief that he was entitled to the bonus available for FY22 vice FY23. His reliance on receiving accurate information and counseling was integral part of his decision making. While the miscounseling was

⁴ An ALCOAST Commandant Notice (ACN) message announces the promulgation of a new policy or may update existing policy and must be reflected in an Instruction or Manual before the expiration of the ACN. If the existing policy is being updated, the Instructions or Manuals affected will be included in the message. A newer version of those Instructions or Manuals will reflect the updated policy from the ACN and will be released within a year of the message. ALCOAST Commandant Notices (ACNs) expire one year from the message release date. <https://www.dcms.uscg.mil/General-Messages/ACN/> (last viewed February 5, 2026).

⁵ The Coast Guard fiscal year is typically aligned with the federal fiscal year, which runs from October 1 to September 30 of the following year.

unintentional, it was due to no fault of the member. This created a disadvantage and hardship to the member as he anticipated a \$35,000 SRB.

On January 24, 2023, CAPT F from CG Sector New England sent the Commandant a second endorsement to the applicant's memo of January 9, 2023. She argued that the applicant should receive the \$35,000 SRB because his Administration office utilized the August 2022 bonus instructions and that an updated ACN in FY22 was "not released with the promulgation of the new instruction." She stated that the confusion led to the admin office using the then current reference which stated that members could reenlist within three months of their EOE to receive an SRB. Finally, she stated that Sector admin prepared the applicant's reenlistment contract, reviewed the SRB guide, and routed everything to the Coast Guard Pay and Personnel Center (PPC). She noted that it wasn't until PPC rejected that bonus request that the Sector admin office realized that the Military Bonus Programs manual that they had referenced had been cancelled.

On February 12, 2023 CAPT R from the Commandant's office denied the applicant's request for an exception to policy, arguing that in accordance with the Coast Guard Military Bonus and Incentives Programs, the request must be denied because:

An individual is not permitted to reenlist any earlier than the applicable fiscal year of their end of enlistment for SRB purposes. While the miscounseling is unfortunate, it would be inequitable to waive this policy.

According to the Coast Guard, the applicant was paid a \$20,000 SRB in December 2024 for signing the six-year reenlistment contract on October 30, 2022.

APPLICABLE REGULATIONS

Article 2.F.3. of the Coast Guard Military Bonus and Incentives Program Manual, COMDTINST M7220.2A (September 2022), states that to be eligible for a Zone A SRB, the member must have completed 17 months of continuous active duty at any point in their military career and reenlist or extend for a period of at least 3 full years.

Article 2.F.5.a of the Bonus Manual states that for a member to be eligible to reenlist for an SRB in an applicable SRB zone eligibility period, the member may reenlist at any time within the fiscal year from 01 October to 30 September of the member's current EOE [End of Enlistment] for the purpose of obtaining an applicable SRB. An individual will not be permitted to reenlist any earlier than the applicable FY of their EOE for SRB purposes.

ACN 104/21 was issued on October 19, 2021 and announced Enlistment Bonuses (EB), Critical Skills Training Bonuses (CSTB), Critical Skills Retention Bonuses (CSRB), and SRBs. It states that a \$35,000 Zone A SRB is authorized for BM2 members who reenlist for an additional six years of active duty service obligation.

ACN 314/22 was issued on August 29, 2022 and announced the restructuring of bonuses for active-duty enlisted members. Paragraph 2.D states that the eligibility requirements for the

SRBs changed so that members may reenlist at any time within the fiscal year of the member's current EOE for the purpose of obtaining an applicable SRB.

ACN 403/22 was issued on October 21, 2022 and announced bonuses for the next year. Paragraph 6.i states that a \$20,000 Zone A SRB is available for BM2 members who reenlist for an additional six years of active-duty service obligation.

VIEWS OF THE COAST GUARD

On October 10, 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 Coast Guard recommended that the Board deny relief.

The JA argued that the applicant is not eligible for the \$35,000 bonus for signing a six-year reenlistment contract on September 30, 2022, because in accordance with the Military Bonus and Incentive Program manual updated in September 2022 and ALCOAST 314/22 issued on August 29, 2022, a member is not permitted to reenlist any earlier than the applicable fiscal year of their end of enlistment (EOE) for SRB purposes. The JA stated that the only authorized exemptions to this rule are for members who must obligate service for some service reason, i.e. transfer, training, advancement, etc. The JA argued that the applicant did not provide any evidence that these exemptions apply to him. The JA noted that previous Coast Guard policy allowed early reenlistment for SRB purposes, but that this policy was only in effect until August 29, 2022 when the manual was cancelled via announcement in ALCOAST 314/22.

The JA stated that when the applicant signed the six-year reenlistment contract on September 30, 2022 his EOE was October 29, 2022, so he tried to lock in the FY22 SRB. However, the JA argued, the applicant signed a Page 7 which states:

“I must reenlist on or at any time prior to my Expiration of Enlistment (EOE) within the Fiscal Year (FY) for which an SRB is offered in order to receive an SRB.”

The JA stated that the applicant's September 30, 2022 reenlistment contract was subsequently cancelled because PSC determined that pursuant to ALCOAST 314/22 which was issued on August 29, 2022, he was not eligible for the FY22 bonus (\$35,000) because his EOE date, October 29, 2022, was in FY 2023 and there is no evidence that he initiated that reenlistment or was counseled on SRB policies prior to the release of ALCOAST 314/22 in August 2022.

The Coast Guard stated that while the miscounseling on the SRB calculation based on outdated policy is unfortunate, it does not rise to the level of an injustice because the applicant was still able to receive an SRB, albeit at a lower amount than initially planned.

APPLICANT'S RESPONSE TO THE VIEWS OF THE COAST GUARD

On October 21, 2025, the BCMR sent the applicant a copy of the Coast Guard's views and invited him to respond within 30 days. The Board did not receive a response.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The Board makes the following findings and conclusions on the basis of 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 alleged that he was promised a \$35,000 Zone A SRB for signing a six-year reenlistment contract on September 30, 2022, but was told by the PSC that he was eligible only to receive a \$20,000 bonus. 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 the military record, and the applicant bears the burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence that the disputed information is erroneous or unjust. 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."⁶

3. The applicant's record shows that he was counseled that he was eligible to receive a \$35,000 bonus pursuant to ACN 104/21 if he signed a six-year reenlistment contract prior to his EOE of October 29, 2022. The record also shows that PSC rejected his request for the \$35,000 bonus because the Bonus manual had been changed on August 29, 2022 to only allow bonuses in the fiscal year of the member's EOE date. The applicant signed his reenlistment contract on September 30, 2022 but his EOE date was October 29, 2022 - in FY 23. Accordingly, he was only eligible for the FY23 bonus of \$20,000.

4. The Board finds that if the applicant had been properly counseled upon signing his September 30, 2022, six-year reenlistment contract then he would have been told that pursuant to the August 2022 update to the Bonus manual and ALCOAST 314/22 he was not eligible to receive a \$35,000 SRB because his EOE date was in FY 23 and thus he was eligible only for a \$20,000 SRB. Article 2.F.5.a of the Bonus Manual states that for a member to be eligible to reenlist for an SRB in an applicable SRB zone eligibility period, the member may reenlist at any time within the fiscal year from 01 October to 30 September of the member's current EOE for the purpose of obtaining an applicable SRB. It states that a member will not be permitted to reenlist any earlier than the applicable FY of their EOE for SRB purposes.

5. The Board finds that the applicant is not eligible to receive the \$35,000 bonus. Although he has proven that he was miscounseled, his original six-year reenlistment contract was cancelled and he was given the opportunity to sign another six-year reenlistment contract on October 30, 2022 and he received a \$20,000 SRB.

6. The applicant's request to be paid the \$35,000 SRB should be denied.

[ORDER AND SIGNATURES APPEAR ON NEXT PAGE]

⁶ *Arens v. United States*, 969 F.2d 1034, 1037 (Fed. Cir. 1992); *Sanders v. United States*, 594 F.2d 804, 813 (Ct. Cl. 1979).

ORDER

The application of BM2 [REDACTED] USCG, for correction of his military record is denied.

February 12, 2026

