

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

Application for the Correction of
the Coast Guard Record of:

**FINAL DECISION
BCMR Docket No. 2017-088**

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██████████

SUMMARY OF THE RECORD

The applicant asked the Board to correct Block 11 (Primary Specialty) on his discharge form DD 214 to show that he was a Boatswain's Mate, instead of showing "NA" (meaning not applicable). His DD 214 shows that he enlisted in the Coast Guard on July 17, 2007, and Block 4.a. (Grade, Rate, or Rank) shows that he was a Boatswain's Mate, Third Class (BM3) at the time of his discharge on September 1, 2010. Block 11 currently contains "NA" followed by five rows of typed Xs to show that there was no more information in that block. The applicant did not state when he discovered the alleged error nor did he explain why he waited more than six years to seek this correction.

On July 6, 2017, the Judge Advocate General of the Coast Guard submitted an advisory opinion recommending that the Board deny relief in accordance with a memorandum submitted by Commander, Personnel Service Center (PSC). PSC argued that the application is untimely and should therefore be denied. Regarding the merits, PSC stated that the applicant's DD 214 was correctly prepared in accordance with COMDTINST M1900.4D, the manual for preparing DD 214s, which states that for all enlisted members, "NA" should be entered in Block 11.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The Board finds that the application is untimely because the applicant was discharged in 2010 but did not submit his application until 2017. The Board's review also shows that his request cannot prevail. The applicant was discharged as a BM3, which is an enlisted rate. Therefore, Block 11 of his DD 214 properly shows "NA," and the remaining unused space is properly filled with Xs in accordance with the rules in COMDTINST M1900.4D. Moreover, the applicant's primary specialty—Boatswain's Mate—is shown in Block 4 of his DD 214. Because the record contains no evidence that substantiates the applicant's allegation of error on his DD 214, which is presumptively correct,¹ the Board will not excuse the application's untimeliness or waive the statute of limitations. The applicant's request should be denied.

(ORDER AND SIGNATURES ON NEXT PAGE)

¹ 33 C.F.R. § 52.24(b); see *Arens v. United States*, 969 F.2d 1034, 1037 (Fed. Cir. 1992) (citing *Sanders v. United States*, 594 F.2d 804, 813 (Ct. Cl. 1979), for the required presumption, absent evidence to the contrary, that Government officials have carried out their duties "correctly, lawfully, and in good faith.").

ORDER

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

October 19, 2017

