

**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. 2017-206**



SUMMARY OF THE RECORD

The applicant asked the Board to correct block 12a (date entered active duty this period) on his discharge form DD 214 from April 16, 1984, to April 28, 1980. He stated that he discovered the alleged error on April 30, 2017, and he submitted a copy of his Coast Guard DD 214 dated December 31, 1995, as well as a letter from the VA dated April 23, 2017. The VA's letter states that he served in the U.S. Army from August 28, 1974, to January 27, 1979, and in the Coast Guard from April 16, 1984, to December 31, 1995.

There are two Coast Guard DD 214s in the applicant's record, however, and both are signed by him. The first covers his service from April 28, 1980, to April 15, 1984, a period of 3 years, 11 months, and 17 days, and shows that he had 4 years and 5 months of prior active service in the Army. The second covers his service from April 16, 1984, until he retired on December 31, 1995, a period of 11 years, 8 months, and 18 days, and shows that he had 8 years, 4 months, and 18 days of total prior active service (in both the Army and Coast Guard).

On November 16, 2017, the Coast Guard recommended that the Board deny relief based on its untimeliness and lack of merit. The Coast Guard stated that all periods of the applicant's active service are accounted for on his two DD 214s and recommended that he take both of his DD 214s to the VA so they can correct his record in their database. Copies of both DD 214s were sent to the applicant with this recommendation, and no response was received.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The Board finds that the applicant's request should be denied because it is untimely and because the record shows that all of the applicant's active service is properly documented on his two Coast Guard DD 214s. The applicant has shown that in 2017 a VA database lack information about his service in the Coast Guard from April 28, 1980, to April 15, 1984, but the Board has no authority to correct the VA's records. As the Coast Guard recommended, if the applicant has not already done so, he should take copies of both of his Coast Guard DD 214s to his regional VA office to request the correction of his record in the VA's database. The applicant's request to change the date of entry in block 12a on his final Coast Guard DD 214, however, should be denied.

ORDER

The application of [REDACTED], USCG (Retired), for correction of his military record is denied. If he has not already done so, he should take copies of both of his Coast Guard DD 214s to his regional VA office to request the correction of his record in the VA's database.

March 7, 2018

