

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

Application for the Correction of
the Coast Guard Record of:

**FINAL DECISION
Docket No. 2019-052**

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SUMMARY OF THE RECORD

The applicant, who was discharged from the Coast Guard Reserve on April 14, 1965, asked the Board to correct the DD 214 documenting his discharge from recruit training on February 11, 1958. He claimed that it is erroneous because it does not document all periods of active duty he performed while in the Reserve or the fact that he also completed Engine School and performed sea duty. To support his claims, the applicant submitted copies of his records and a typed summary of his service, in which he stated that he performed approximately one month of active duty each year following his release from recruit training, including a 28-day period of sea service aboard the USCGC ██████████ in 1961 and completion of Diesel Engine School in ██████████ in 1962. The applicant stated that he needs documentation of his Reserve service for his grave marker and to get a store discount for veterans.

VIEWS OF THE COAST GUARD

On June 5, 2019, the Coast Guard submitted an advisory opinion recommending that the Board grant alternative relief in this case. PSC noted that the case is not timely and that the applicant was not entitled to another DD 214 after he completed recruit training in 1958 because he did not serve on active duty for any additional periods lasting at least 90 consecutive days. PSC noted that under the DD 214 manual, a reservist must serve on continuous active duty for at least 90 days to be entitled to a DD 214 upon release from active duty. And the applicant admitted that he served several one-month periods of active duty but does not claim to have served on active duty for any period of at least 90 continuous days after he completed recruit training. PSC also stated that the applicant's DD 214 issued on February 11, 1958, upon his completion of recruit training should not be corrected to reflect subsequent periods of service or training. But PSC recommended that the Board direct the Coast Guard to issue the applicant a Reserve Statement of Service so that he will have documentation of all his Reserve military service.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

Although the application was not timely filed, the Board will excuse the delay and waive the statute of limitations because it is vital for veterans to have documentation of their military service. The applicant asked the Board to correct his 1958 DD 214 to reflect subsequent periods of service and training, but that DD 214 is accurate as of the day it was issued, and the DD 214 manual does not allow updating DD 214s to reflect subsequent events. The manual states that DD 214s are issued upon discharge or release from active duty, and for reservists—who often perform many short periods of active duty—the period of active duty must be at least 90 continuous days or the reservist must have been recalled to active duty involuntarily under Title 10 to entitle the reservist to a DD 214. The applicant's record does not show that he was ever recalled under Title 10 or that he performed another period of active service that lasted at least 90 days after he completed recruit training. Therefore, the applicant is not entitled to a second DD 214. Instead, the Board agrees with the Coast Guard that alternative relief should be granted by issuing the applicant a Reserve Statement of Service so that he will have documentation of his military service.