

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

---

**Application for Correction of  
The Coast Guard Record of:**

**BCMR Docket No. 2024-162**

  
**BM3 (Former)**

---

**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 completed application on August 27, 2024, and assigned the case to a staff attorney to prepare the decision in accordance with 33 C.F.R. § 52.61(c).

This final decision, dated July 24, 2024, is approved and signed by the three (3) duly appointed members who were designated to serve as the Board in this case.

**APPLICANT’S REQUEST AND ALLEGATIONS**

Applicant requests an administrative correction to his DD Form 214. Specifically, Applicant states that he served in the United States Coast Guard “active reserves,” during which time he was promoted to Boatswain’s Mate Third Class (BM3). He requests to have a “new” DD-214 sent to him that reflects this service and promotion.

Applicant submitted a DD-149 and limited service records.

**SUMMARY OF THE RECORD**

Applicant entered active duty in the U.S. Coast Guard on May 28, 1963, for a term of four (4) years. On May 26, 1967, he was released from active duty as a SN/E-3, issued a DD Form 214 discharge certificate and transferred to the Coast Guard Ready Reserve to serve the remainder of his service obligation on inactive duty. On May 27, 1969, Applicant was discharged from the Coast Guard Reserve, as his obligation of service expired, and mailed an Honorable Discharge certificate.

## **Final Decision in BCMR Docket No. 2024-162**

In February 1975, Applicant reenlisted in the Coast Guard Reserve on inactive duty for a period of three (3) years. At the expiration of his enlistment contract in 1978, he voluntarily extended enlistment for one (1) year on inactive duty. On February 7, 1979, Applicant's extended obligation expired, and he was issued an Honorable discharge certificate as a BM3.

No additional DD Form 214 for the Applicant appears in his record.

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

On March 19, 2025, a Judge Advocate (JA) of the Coast Guard submitted an advisory opinion recommending the Board deny relief in accordance with a memorandum submitted by the Commanding Officer of the Coast Guard Personnel Service Center (CG PSC).

In particular, CG PSC found that Applicant left active duty in 1967 as an SN/E-3, and was properly issued a DD Form 214 at the time of discharge. CG PSC further found that although he was promoted to Boatswain's Mate Third Class (BM3) while in the reserves, he had not served in active duty while in that rank. Consequently, Applicant was not entitled to a DD Form 214 when discharged from the reserves. Rather than being issued a DD Form 214, Applicant was instead correctly issued a discharge certificate correctly listing his rank as Boatswain's Mate Third Class (BM3).

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

The Chair sent Applicant the Coast Guard's Advisory Opinion and invited him to respond within thirty days. No response was received.

### **APPLICABLE REGULATIONS**

Instructions for completing the DD Form 214CG<sup>1</sup> provide, in pertinent part,

1. Criteria for Issuance of DD Form 214CG. The DD Form 214CG is issued to cover periods of service on active duty, temporary active duty, some periods of active duty for training[.]
  - a. Eligible Personnel. The DD Form 214CG is issued to:
    - (1) Personnel Released From Active Duty. Except as provided in subparagraph b. of this paragraph, the form will be furnished at the time of separation from a period of active service or temporary active duty.
    - (2) Personnel Released From Active Duty for Training.

---

<sup>1</sup> At the time of Applicant's separation in February 1979, the discharge form was titled DD 214CG.

## Final Decision in BCMR Docket No. 2024-162

- (a) The DD Form 214CG will be furnished to personnel being separated from a period of active duty for training when they have served 90 days or more.
- (b) The DD Form 214CG shall be issued for a period of active duty for training less than 90 days to:
  - 1. Reservists separated for physical disability[...]
- b. Ineligible personnel. The DD Form 214CG will NOT be issued in the case of personnel:
  - (3) Who are released from active duty for training of less than 90 days unless released from the second phase of the USCG-RK program or separated for physical disability.

\* \* \*

COMDTINST M1900.4A (MAY 1975).

### FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

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

1. The Board has jurisdiction concerning this matter pursuant to 10 U.S.C. § 1552.
2. An application to the Board must be filed within three years after the applicant discovers the alleged error or injustice.<sup>2</sup> The Applicant received an Honorable discharge certificate on expiration of his second term in the Coast Guard Reserve on February 7, 1979. Based on the showing made, a preponderance of the evidence shows that the applicant knew or should have known of the alleged error in his record on that date. Consequently, the deadline for filing would have been February 7, 1982. The instant application is untimely.
3. The Board may excuse the untimeliness of an application if it is in the interest of justice to do so.<sup>3</sup> In *Allen v. Card*, 799 F. Supp. 158 (D.D.C. 1992), the court stated that the Board should not deny an application for untimeliness without "analyz[ing] both the reasons for the delay and the potential merits of the claim based on a cursory review"<sup>4</sup> to determine whether the interest of justice supports a waiver of the statute of limitations. The court noted that "the longer the delay has been and the weaker the reasons are for the delay, the more compelling the merits would need to be to justify a full review."<sup>5</sup>
  - a. A review of the merits of this case reveals that Applicant's request for administrative correction is not warranted. Applicant was correctly issued a DD Form 214 when he separated from active duty in 1967, in accordance with Coast Guard regulation. Under the

---

<sup>2</sup> 10 U.S.C. § 1552(b) and 33 C.F.R. § 52.22.

<sup>3</sup> 10 U.S.C. § 1552(b).

<sup>4</sup> *Allen v. Card*, 799 F. Supp. 158, 164 (D.D.C. 1992).

<sup>5</sup> *Id.* at 164, 165; *see also Dickson v. Secretary of Defense*, 68 F.3d 1396 (D.C. Cir. 1995).

## Final Decision in BCMR Docket No. 2024-162

circumstances and nature of Applicant's service, he was not entitled to a DD Form 214 at the time of separation from the Coast Guard Reserve in 1979.

i. Applicant was separated from active duty in the U.S. Coast Guard, effective May 26, 1967, at which time he was issued a DD Form 214, in accordance with Coast Guard regulation.

ii. Upon discharge from active duty, Applicant was transferred to the Coast Guard Reserve on inactive duty status to serve his remaining two (2) year service obligation.

iii. On May 27, 1969, Applicant's service obligation expired, and he was discharged from the Coast Guard Reserve as a Seaman/E-3, with an Honorable discharge. In accordance with regulation, he was issued a certificate of discharge and not a DD Form 214.

iv. On February 8, 1975, Applicant reenlisted for a period of three (3) years in the Coast Guard Reserve on inactive duty status. While on Reserve, Applicant was promoted to Boatswain's Mate Third Class (BM3).

v. Applicant completed less than 90 days of active duty training while in the Coast Guard Reserve.

vi. On February 7, 1978, Applicant voluntarily extended his three (3) year term of Reserve service by one (1) year, with a new expiration date of February 7, 1979.

vii. On February 7, 1979, Applicant was Honorably discharged as a Boatswain's Mate Third Class. In accordance with Coast Guard regulation, he was not issued a DD Form 214CG, because he: 1) had completed service on inactive duty status, and 2) had not completed a term of active-duty training requiring the issuance of a DD Form 214.

viii. Accordingly, the evidence adduced from the record does not support a finding that Applicant's DD Form 214 was issued in error, or that a subsequent DD Form 214 should be issued.

ix. It is noted that Applicant's record reveals that he overcame early career challenges in demonstrated acts that reflected "the type of individual [the United States Coast Guard is] proud to have serve [in its ranks]," including engagement in a rescue operation in which his actions were commended as "swift and well-coordinated," and his readiness to augment efforts to gain control of a 175,000 gallon gasoline barge in the early morning hours of winter in the Cape Cod Canal. The fact that Applicant's Reserve career would not be captured on a DD Form 214 does not diminish the honor or pride with which he served, the recognition he received while serving, or the distinction earned by him or any servicemember who receives a certificate of discharge and not a DD form 214.

**[ORDER AND SIGNATURE ON NEXT PAGE]**

**Final Decision in BCMR Docket No. 2024-162**

**ORDER**

The application of former Boatswain's Mate Third Class, [REDACTED], USCG, for correction of his military record, is denied.

July 24, 2025

