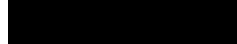


**DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS**

Application for Correction of
the Coast Guard Record of:

BCMR Docket No. 2025-035


SN/E3 (former)

FINAL DECISION

This proceeding was conducted according to the provisions of 10 U.S.C. § 1552. The Chair docketed the case after receiving the completed application on November 20, 2024, and assigned it to an attorney to prepare the decision for the Board pursuant to 33 C.F.R. § 52.61(c).

This final decision dated September 11, 2025, 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 is seeking a correction to her DD214. She states her DD214 lists the incorrect separation date. The applicant also states that their DD214 lists them as Temporary Disability Retirement List (TDRL), but the applicant asserts she was fully separated from the Coast Guard in September 2013 and no longer on TDRL. The applicant's DD214 lists her characterization of service as "honorable" and a separation code of SFK, separation reasoning listed as disability, temporary, and a re-enlistment code of RE-3P.

SUMMARY OF THE RECORD

On July 14, 2009, the applicant joined the USCG.

On January 25, 2011, the applicant separated from the USCG as displayed on her DD214 and placed on the Temporary Disability Retirement List.

On August 22, 2013, the Coast Guard fully discharged the applicant with a medical discharge.

VIEWS OF THE COAST GUARD

On July 8, 2025, a Judge Advocate (JA) for the Coast Guard submitted an advisory opinion in which he recommended that the Board deny relief in this case and adopted the findings and analysis prepared by the Coast Guard Personnel Service Center (PSC).

The JA concurred with the PSC evaluation of the applicant's request. PSC determined there was no error or injustice and the applicant's request should be denied. The JA argues that the applicant's request is untimely.

The JA asserts that the applicant failed to prove an error or injustice. The JA explains that a DD214 is issued to members who are separated or released from active service, representing the certificate of release from all active-duty service. A member's time on TDRL is not considered active-duty time and would not require a separate DD214. Instead, a member is issued a Separation Authorization that becomes part of the record and can be attached to the applicant's DD-214 to reflect the service member's final disposition. This is how the applicant was processed out of the Coast Guard and therefore there is no error within the DD214 as it is written.

The JA recommends the Board deny relief.

APPLICANT'S RESPONSE TO THE VIEWS OF THE COAST GUARD

On June 23, 2025, the Chair sent the applicant a copy of the Coast Guard's views and invited her to respond within thirty (30) days. The applicant has not responded as of the date of this decision.

APPLICABLE LAW AND POLICY

1. 33 C.F.R. § 52.22. An application for correction of a record must be filed within three years after the Applicant discovered or reasonably should have discovered the alleged error or injustice.
2. DOD Instruction 1336.01 Certificate of Uniformed Service. Published 2022.
3. Certificate of Release of Discharge from Active Duty, DD Form 214 COMDTINST M1900.4D, 1993.

Chapter 1. Instructions for the Preparation of the DD Form 214.

A. Criteria for Issuance: The DD 214 is issued to members who change their military status among active duty, reserve, or retired components or are separated/discharged from the Coast Guard to civilian status.

B. Ineligible Personnel: The DD Form 214 will NOT be issued to members:

3. Who are being removed from the temporary disability retired list (TDRL).

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The Board makes the following findings and conclusions on the basis of the applicant's submissions, the Coast Guard's submission, 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.¹ This application is untimely. The applicant received her DD214 in 2011 and signed confirming the document. The applicant claims she was informed by someone at the VA that her DD 214 reflected an incorrect date in May 2024, and therefore did not know of the error until then. Given the relatively technical nature of many DD 214 entries, the Board considers May 2024 to be the date of discovery of the error. The application is therefore timely.
3. Consistent with Coast Guard policy, the applicant's DD 214 was intended to capture data that was accurate at the time of the form's issuance. In similar cases, the Board has previously found that a DD 214 is "a record of a single period of enlistment, like a snapshot, and it is supposed to ... be accurate as of the date of discharge." The Board acknowledges that this analysis does not apply universally, given that DD 214 corrections based on post-service events may be warranted in some limited circumstances (e.g., the addition of a newly-created medal or other award for which retroactive issuance is authorized). In this case, however, the reasoning underpinning the Board's prior decisions remains applicable. To state the analysis differently, the Board's authority extends only to the correction of records based on error or injustice. When a DD 214 lists accurate information at the time of issuance, and otherwise comports with applicable law and policy, the Board will generally not find an error.
4. In this case, the applicant's DD 214 was correct when issued. She had served on continuous active duty since July 14, 2009. On January 15, 2011, she was discharged from active duty, placed on the TDRL, and properly issued a DD 214. The applicant's record does not show, and she has not alleged, that she performed any additional active duty after the date of her discharge. The Board notes that service members are not entitled to a DD 214 "Certificate of Release or Discharge From Active Duty" for all periods of Coast Guard service. The DD 214 is issued to document periods of active-duty service as identified by applicable Coast Guard issuances. In this case, issuance of a DD 214 to reflect the applicant's time on TDRL was not only not authorized, it was specifically prohibited by COMDTINST M1900.4D.
5. The applicant's record contains no error, and the applicant has not made a claim of injustice related to her record. Therefore, the Board finds that relief for the applicant should be denied.

(ORDER AND SIGNATURES ON NEXT PAGE)

¹ 10 U.S.C. § 1552(b) and 33 C.F.R. § 52.22.

ORDER

The application of E3 [REDACTED], USCG, for a change in service dates on her DD214 is denied.

August 28, 2025

