

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

Application for Correction of  
Coast Guard Record of:

BCMR Docket  
No. 144-97

FINAL DECISION

██████████ Attorney-Advisor:

This is a proceeding under the provisions of section 1552 of title 10, United States Code. It was commenced on June 23, 1997, upon the BCMR's receipt of the applicant's request for correction.

This final decision, dated May 28, 1998, is signed by the three duly appointed members who were designated to serve as the Board in this case.

**Applicant's Request for Relief**

The applicant, a seaman (SN; pay grade E-3), asked the Board to correct his record to show that he enrolled in the Montgomery G. I. Bill (MGIB) when he enlisted in the Coast Guard. He stated that he enlisted in the Coast Guard with every intention of enrolling in the MGIB. He stated that he completed the enrollment form (DD Form 2366), but mistakenly signed the wrong block, thereby "disenrolling" from the program. He stated that by the time he learned of this mistake, it was beyond the time limit to correct the error.

The applicant submitted a statement to the Board in which he explained his interests in joining the armed services. He stated that the military appealed to him because of the possibility of travel, the good medical and dental benefits, and the educational benefits available through the MGIB.

The applicant asserted that after enlisting, he attended a short class on MGIB benefits and the enrollment process. He stated that the instructions were very brief, but that he filled out the enrollment form understanding the benefits he would receive and signed what he thought was the appropriate line to complete his enrollment.

The applicant stated that "[t]hree months after boot camp [he] began to notice that deductions were not being taken out of [his] salary for the G.I. Bill. . . ." He stated that he brought this to the attention of the ship's office and that they assured him the

deductions would be made after missing paperwork was returned to his Personnel Data Record (PDR). After another four months, the applicant stated that the deductions were still not being made. He inquired further about the oversight, and then learned of the error on the enrollment form. He stated that by that time, it was unfortunately too late to re-enroll in the MGIB.

### SUMMARY OF RECORD AND SUBMISSIONS

The applicant's record shows that he enlisted in the Coast Guard on May 1, 1996, for a four-year term.

On May 10, 1996, the applicant completed a statement of understanding regarding MGIB benefits in which he acknowledged the four-year active service obligation and other conditions which must be met to receive MGIB benefits.

The applicant submitted a copy of the DD Form 2366 (MGIB enrollment/disenrollment form), dated June 25, 1996. The form shows that the applicant completed each section correctly, but signed block 3 on the form (Statement of Disenrollment) instead of block 2(c) (directly above block 3), which was the signature block for members wishing to remain enrolled in the MGIB program. This document was witnessed by another seaman.

The applicant also submitted several documents in support of his request for correction.

He submitted a letter from the Chief of the Coast Guard Recruiting Office where the applicant enlisted. The Chief stated that "[a]ll through [the applicant's] processing, his main concern was for educational benefits. . . ." At the time of his enlistment, the applicant was attending Long Beach City College. The Chief stated that "[i]t was very clear to us that his intentions were to take the G.I. Bill."

There is also a statement from one of the applicant's professors at Long Beach City College. The professor stated that the applicant frequently discussed his interest in science and spoke with her about "how he was planning to take a variety of science classes to help him choose his career." The professor stated that in all of her classes, the applicant was "a good, interested and enthusiastic student." She stated that when the applicant informed her of his intention to enlist in the Coast Guard, he assured her that "he had every intention to complete his college education and pursue his interests in science." She stated that he believed the Coast Guard would give him "opportunities to both work and study."

The applicant's chemistry instructor also submitted a letter in support of the applicant. She stated that she knew of the applicant's intentions to enlist in the Coast

**ORDER**

The application for correction of the military record of [REDACTED], USCG, is granted as follows: The DD Form 2366 in the applicant's record shall be corrected to show that he signed the appropriate block in section 2 to indicate his enrollment and agreement to the terms of the MGIB. This corrected form shall be placed in the applicant's military record, and a copy shall be furnished the applicant. The applicant shall then be allowed to pay whatever amount is necessary to bring his MGIB account up to date. In the event that paying the full amount at one time creates a hardship for the applicant, then he shall be allowed to pay a certain amount monthly from the effective date of this decision in order to make his MGIB account current.

