

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

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Application for the Correction of  
the Coast Guard Record of:

**FINAL DECISION  
BCMR Docket No. 2009-187**

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XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

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**SUMMARY OF THE RECORD**

The applicant asked the Board to correct block 15 of her DD 214 dated September 21, 1990, to show that she contributed to the post-Vietnam Era Veterans' Educational Assistance Program (VEAP). She alleged that allotments were withdrawn from her pay so that she would be eligible for educational benefits, but her DD 214 erroneously indicates that she did not participate in this program. She submitted copies of her DD 214, her Leave and Earnings Statements showing allotments, and a letter from the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) dated April 7, 2009, stating that she was ineligible for educational benefits because more than 10 years have passed since her discharge.

The Judge Advocate General (JAG) noted that the application is untimely and recommended that the Board deny relief because the applicant enrolled and paid for educational benefits under the Montgomery G.I. Bill (MGIB) when she enlisted in 1986, not under VEAP, which ended in 1984. The JAG submitted a copy of her MGIB enrollment form. He noted that the DVA denied her application for MGIB benefits because she was discharged in 1990, and as stated on the MGIB enrollment form, MGIB benefits must be used within 10 years of a veteran's discharge.

In response to the JAG's recommendation, the applicant stated that she had been confused by the language in block 15 and thought that it applied to her enrollment in the MGIB program. She asked that her DD 214 be amended to show that she participated in the MGIB and that her eligibility for MGIB benefits be extended because the notation in block 15 had confused her about her eligibility and because she was busy working and raising her own child during the 10 years she was eligible for MGIB benefits.

**FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

DD 214s are prepared in accordance with detailed regulations in a manual, COMDTINST M1900.4C. DD 214s have no block for noting participation in the MGIB program. Block 18, which is for remarks, may contain only those remarks authorized by the manual, which does not authorize any entries about the MGIB. Rather than noting MGIB participation on veterans' DD 214s, the Armed Forces now inform the DVA directly about which of its members have enrolled in the MGIB. The record indicates that the Coast Guard properly informed the DVA of the applicant's enrollment in the MGIB, and that the DVA only denied her application because more than 10 years have passed since her date of discharge. Therefore, the applicant has not proved

that the lack of a notation about her MGIB enrollment on her DD 214 is erroneous or is unjustly preventing her from receiving MGIB benefits.

The applicant asked the Board to extend her eligibility for MGIB benefits, but the Board has no authority to do so because MGIB benefits are not administered by the Coast Guard but by the DVA. This Board has no authority to correct the records of the DVA. Only the DVA has authority to extend a veteran's eligibility period for MGIB benefits.

**ORDER**

The application of former XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX, USCG, for correction of her military record is denied.

March 11, 2010  
Date

