

**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. 2014-111**

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**SUMMARY OF THE RECORD**

The applicant asked the Board to correct his record to show that he transferred his unused Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits to his dependent children before retiring from active duty. He stated that he attempted to transfer the benefits with the assistance of his unit's education office prior to his December 1, 2011, retirement, but the transaction was never recorded. In support of his application, the applicant submitted a letter from the education services specialist who assisted him with the attempted transfer of his Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits. The specialist stated that his records indeed show that the applicant came to his office prior to his retirement, but he does not specifically remember what happened. However, he stated that it is likely that he discussed the transfer of benefits with the applicant and that it is likely that there was some sort of computer error that prevented the applicant's transfer request from being executed.

The Judge Advocate General of the Coast Guard submitted an advisory opinion recommending that the Board grant relief in accordance with a memorandum submitted by the Commander, Personnel Service Center (PSC). PSC argued that relief should be granted because the applicant was eligible to transfer his benefits prior to his retirement, but due to either a lack of assistance or knowledge of the application process, the transfer was not properly submitted and executed.

**FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

The applicant was eligible under paragraph 3.a.(3)(a) of DTM 09-003 to transfer his Post-9/11 GI Bill educational benefits to his dependents before he retired from the Coast Guard on December 1, 2011.<sup>1</sup> The applicant has proven by a preponderance of the evidence that he attempted to transfer those benefits with the assistance of his unit's education office, as he alleged, but that the transfer was never properly executed. Accordingly, relief should be granted.

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<sup>1</sup> DTM 09-003, Attach. 2, para. 3.a.(3) (a member is eligible to transfer his benefits if he is or becomes retirement eligible during the period from August 1, 2009, through August 1, 2013. A Service Member is considered to be retirement eligible if he or she has completed 20 years of active Federal service or 20 qualifying years as computed under section 12732 of Reference (b)).

**ORDER**

The application of [REDACTED] [REDACTED] USCG (retired), for correction of his military record is granted. His record shall be corrected to show that before retiring from active duty, he transferred his Post-9/11 GI Bill educational benefits to his eligible dependents. The Coast Guard shall assist him with the paperwork necessary to accomplish this transfer of benefits.

November 7, 2014

