

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

Application for the Correction of
the Coast Guard Record of:

**FINAL DECISION
BCMR Docket No. 2014-095**

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████████████████████

SUMMARY OF THE RECORD

The applicant asked the Board to correct his discharge form DD 214 by removing the Prisoner of War (POW) medal and adding the Arctic Service Medal. He stated that he was never a POW and does not want his DD 214 to reflect a medal that he did not actually earn. The applicant argued that he is eligible to receive the Arctic Service Medal because he served aboard the *CGC Northwind* from November 1985 through October 1986 and was deployed above the Arctic Circle during the summer of 1986. In support of his application, the applicant submitted a copy of a Realm of The Arctic Circle certificate, which states that he crossed the Arctic Circle aboard the *Northwind* on July 7, 1986.

On August 4, 2014, the Judge Advocate General of the Coast Guard submitted an advisory opinion recommending that the Board grant partial relief in accordance with a memorandum submitted by the Personnel Service Center (PSC). PSC stated that the POW medal on the applicant's DD 214 is erroneous and should be removed because there is nothing in his record to show that he was a POW. Regarding the applicant's request for the Arctic Service Medal, PSC argued that he is not eligible for the medal because he was in the Arctic Circle for a short time, and the Medals and Awards Manual states that the member must be in the eligible geographical area for 21 consecutive days. Moreover, PSC noted, the *Northwind* is not listed in Enclosure 14 of the manual which lists all applicable Coast Guard units and cutters authorized the Arctic Service Medal. In response, the applicant agreed with this recommendation.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The Board finds that the inclusion of the POW medal on the applicant's DD 214 is erroneous and should be removed. The applicant stated that he was never a POW nor is there anything in his military record to show that he was a POW. The Board also finds that the applicant is not eligible to receive the Arctic Service Medal because he was not in the Arctic Circle for 21 consecutive days, as required in the Medals and Awards Manual, and the crew of the *Northwind* in 1986 is not listed as having been authorized the medal. The Board notes that the applicant agreed with the JAG's opinion that he does not meet the eligibility criteria for the Arctic Service Medal. Accordingly, partial relief should be granted by correcting his DD 214 to show that he did not receive the POW medal.

(ORDER AND SIGNATURES ON NEXT PAGE)

ORDER

The application of former [REDACTED], for correction of his military record is granted in part as follows: The Coast Guard shall correct his DD 214 to show that he did not receive the POW medal.

November 7, 2014

