

**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. 2014-226**

SUMMARY OF THE RECORD

The applicant asked the Board to correct his record to show that he received the National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) and a Commandant Letter of Commendation (LOC) ribbon. He stated that he has been denied a veteran's preference because the NDSM is missing from his DD Form 214. In support of his application he submitted a page from a Coast Guard database which shows that he was awarded two LOC ribbons, but does not indicate that he was awarded the NDSM. The applicant did not submit a copy of his DD 214 and the Coast Guard was unable to locate a copy.

On April 15, 2015, the Judge Advocate General (JAG) of the Coast Guard submitted an advisory opinion recommending that the Board grant alternative relief in accordance with a memorandum submitted by the Commander, Personnel Service Center (PSC). PSC stated that the applicant is eligible to receive the NDSM because his record shows that he served as a member of the armed forces after September 12, 2001, and is thus eligible for the medal pursuant to the Coast Guard Medals and Awards Manual. With regards to the LOC ribbon, PSC stated that the applicant already received two LOC ribbons but is not eligible to receive a third because there is nothing in his record to show that he is eligible for another one and that he did not provide any proof that he received a third LOC ribbon. Finally, PSC submitted a copy of the applicant's DD 214 worksheet, which shows just one Meritorious Unit Commendation Ribbon, issued on April 28, 2010, and a print-out from the Direct Access database showing that the applicant received a second Meritorious Unit Commendation Ribbon on December 19, 2011. Accordingly, the JAG recommended that a DD 215 be issued to the applicant adding the NDSM and the Coast Guard Meritorious Unit Commendation Ribbon.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The applicant has proven by a preponderance of the evidence that he is eligible to receive the NDSM, but has failed to prove that he is eligible for a third LOC ribbon. He is eligible for the NDSM because he served on active duty after September 12, 2001, and Article 5.A.1. of the Medals and Awards Manual states that the NDSM is authorized for members who served honorably after September 12, 2001.

With regards to the LOC ribbon, the applicant did not provide a copy of his DD 214 so the Board does not know precisely how many LOC ribbons are noted on his DD 214, but the DD 214 worksheet provided by the Coast Guard indicates that he received two LOC ribbons, and the information shown on the worksheet is presumably listed on his DD 214. The applicant

submitted nothing to show that he was awarded three LOCs, and so the Board finds that he has failed to prove by a preponderance of the evidence that he is entitled to a third LOC ribbon.

Finally, the Board agrees with PSC that the preponderance of the evidence shows that the applicant was awarded a second Meritorious Unit Commendation Ribbon, but only one was recorded on his DD 214 worksheet. Therefore, the Coast Guard should correct his record to reflect the second Meritorious Unit Commendation Ribbon.

(ORDER AND SIGNATURES ON NEXT PAGE)

ORDER

The application of former [REDACTED] 3 [REDACTED], USCG, for correction of his military record is granted in part. The Coast Guard shall correct his DD 214 by issuing a DD 215 to show that he is entitled to wear the National Defense Service Medal and a second Coast Guard Meritorious Unit Commendation Ribbon.

July 29, 2015

