

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

---

Application for the Correction of  
the Coast Guard Record of:

**BCMR Docket No. 2015-141**

████████████████████  
████████████████████

---

**FINAL DECISION**

This proceeding was conducted according to the provisions of section 1552 of title 10 and section 425 of title 14 of the United States Code. The Chair docketed the case after receiving the applicant's completed application on July 1, 2015, and assigned it to staff member ██████████ to prepare the decision for the Board as required by 33 C.F.R. § 52.61(c).

This final decision, dated April 29, 2016, is approved and signed by the three duly appointed members who were designated to serve as the Board in this case.

**APPLICANT'S REQUEST AND ALLEGATIONS**

The applicant, a former aerographer's mate, third class (AG3)<sup>1</sup> in the Coast Guard, asked the Board to correct his DD 214<sup>2</sup> documenting his active duty to show that he received the following ribbons:

1. Restricted Duty Ribbon
2. Overseas Service Ribbon

The applicant alleged that he is eligible for these two ribbons because he served at LORAN ██████████ from June 1964 to June 1965. In support of his application, he submitted a copy of his DD 214, which indicates in block 26 that he received a Coast Guard Good Conduct Medal and the National Defense Service Medal. The applicant stated that he discovered the alleged errors in his record on January 1, 2015.

---

<sup>1</sup> Phased out by the Coast Guard in 1975, aerographer's mates were meteorological and oceanographic specialists.

<sup>2</sup> A DD 214 is prepared to document a member's release or discharge from a period of active duty.

<sup>3</sup> ██████████ was a long-range aid-to-navigation (LORAN) station ██████████. After WWII the U.S. Coast Guard operated the LORAN system, which broadcast radio signals from fixed points allowing receivers to triangulate precise locations and became the primary tool for marine and air navigation with over 170 stations worldwide. Most LORAN stations have been phased out with the advent of modern global positioning systems. <http://www.loran-history.info/downloads/LORAN%20Social%20History%20-%20April%202015.pdf>



## SUMMARY OF THE RECORD

The applicant enlisted in the Coast Guard on November 5, 1963, and was honorably discharged on May 3, 1968. His record shows that he was stationed at LORAN [REDACTED] from June 26, 1964, until June 18, 1965, but did not have any other overseas assignments. His DD 214 shows that he received a Coast Guard Good Conduct Medal and the National Defense Service Medal.

## APPLICABLE LAW AND REGULATIONS

COMDTINST M1900.4D contains the Commandant's instructions for completing the DD 214, and Chapter 1.D.2. provides that it must be accurate as of the date of separation. Chapter 1.E. of the instruction states that block 13 of a DD 214 should show "all decorations, medals, badges, commendations, citations, and campaign ribbons awarded or authorized for all periods of service."

Article 5.A.22. of the Medals and Awards Manual, COMDTINST M1650.25D, provides that the Restricted Duty Ribbon, which was authorized on March 3, 1984, is awarded to Coast Guard personnel who complete a permanent change of station (PCS) tour of duty at a shore unit listed in 5-27 of COMDTINST M1650.25D enclosure (18). CG LORAN Station [REDACTED] is included on enclosure (18) as one of the duty stations eligible for the Restricted Duty Ribbon.

ALCOAST 615/10 was issued on April 29, 2010, and states that on October 28, 2009, the Commandant of the Coast Guard approved the establishment of the Coast Guard Overseas Service Ribbon. The ALCOAST states that the ribbon is awarded to members who successfully complete a tour of duty of at least 12 months at an overseas shore-based duty station or aboard a cutter permanently assigned to an overseas area. Paragraph 2.G. of the ALCOAST states that personnel who receive or are eligible to receive the Coast Guard Restricted Duty Ribbon are not eligible to receive the Overseas Service Ribbon for the same period.

## VIEWS OF THE COAST GUARD

On November 17, 2015, the Judge Advocate General (JAG) of the Coast Guard submitted an advisory opinion recommending that the Board grant partial relief in accordance with a memorandum submitted by the Commander, Personnel Service Center (PSC).

PSC argued that partial relief should be granted because although his request is untimely, his record does contain an error which should be corrected. Moreover, PSC noted that the criteria for establishing eligibility for the Coast Guard Overseas Ribbon were not published until 2009.

First, PSC argued that the Coast Guard Restricted Duty Ribbon should be added to the applicant's DD 214 because he served at CG LORAN Station [REDACTED] June 26, 1964, until June 18, 1965, and the station is listed in enclosure (18) of COMDTINST M1650.25D as an eligible unit for the Coast Guard Restricted Duty Ribbon.



Second, PSC argued that the applicant is not eligible for the Coast Guard Overseas Service Ribbon. PSC noted that although the applicant completed at least 12 months of overseas service duty at [REDACTED], he is not eligible for the Overseas Service Ribbon because he is also eligible for the Restricted Duty Ribbon for his service at [REDACTED] and ALCOAST 615/10 states that personnel who receive or are eligible to receive the Restricted Duty Ribbon are not eligible to receive the Overseas Service Ribbon for the same period.

Therefore, PSC concluded, the applicant's DD 214 should be corrected to show that he was awarded a Coast Guard Restricted Duty Ribbon but not the Coast Guard Overseas Service Ribbon

### APPLICANT'S RESPONSE TO THE VIEWS OF THE COAST GUARD

On November 24, 2015, the BCMR sent the applicant a copy of the Coast Guard's views and invited him to respond within 30 days. The Board did not receive a response.

### FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The Board makes the following findings and conclusions on the basis of the applicant's military record and submissions, the Coast Guard's submission and applicable law:

1. The Board has jurisdiction concerning this matter pursuant to 10 U.S.C. § 1552. An application to the Board must be filed within three years after the applicant discovers the alleged error or injustice.<sup>4</sup> The applicant received his DD 214 on May 3, 1968, but did not submit his application to the Board until 2015. However, the ribbons he seeks were not authorized until after his discharge, and there is no evidence that he discovered the alleged errors earlier than 2015. Accordingly, the Board finds that his application is timely.

2. The applicant alleged that his DD 214 does not list two ribbons that he received or should have received. The Board begins its analysis in every case by presuming that the disputed information in the applicant's military record is correct as it appears in his record, and the applicant bears the burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence that the disputed information is erroneous or unjust. 33 C.F.R. § 52.24(b). Absent evidence to the contrary, the Board presumes that Coast Guard officials and other Government employees have carried out their duties "correctly, lawfully, and in good faith." *Arens v. United States*, 969 F.2d 1034, 1037 (Fed. Cir. 1992); *Sanders v. United States*, 594 F.2d 804, 813 (Ct. Cl. 1979).

3. The applicant argued that the Coast Guard Restricted Duty Ribbon should be added to his DD 214 because he served at LORAN Station [REDACTED] from 1964 to 1965. The Board agrees. The record shows that he was stationed at [REDACTED] from June 26, 1964, until June 18, 1965, and the station is listed in enclosure (18) of COMDTINST M1650.25D as an eligible unit for the Coast Guard Restricted Duty Ribbon. Therefore, the Board finds that the applicant's DD 214 should be corrected to show that he is eligible to receive the Coast Guard Restricted Duty Ribbon

---

<sup>4</sup> 10 U.S.C. § 1552(b) and 33 C.F.R. § 52.22.

4. The applicant also argued that his DD 214 should be corrected to show that he earned the Overseas Service Ribbon for his service at [REDACTED]. The Board finds that he is not eligible for this ribbon because ALCOAST 615/10 states that personnel who receive or are eligible to receive the Restricted Duty Ribbon are not eligible to receive the Overseas Service Ribbon for the same period. As noted in Finding 3, the Board is ordering the Coast Guard to correct the applicant's record to show that he is eligible to receive the Restricted Duty Ribbon for his service at [REDACTED], so pursuant to ALCOAST 615/10 he is not eligible to receive the Overseas Service Ribbon for that same period. Moreover, there is nothing in the applicant's records to show that he served overseas anywhere other than [REDACTED], so he had no other service to establish eligibility for the Overseas Service Ribbon.

5. The applicant has proven by a preponderance of the evidence that his DD 214 does not accurately reflect all of the ribbons he is eligible for. Accordingly, his DD 214 should be corrected to show that he was awarded a Restricted Duty Ribbon.

**(ORDER AND SIGNATURES ON NEXT PAGE)**

**ORDER**

The application of former [REDACTED] USCG, for correction of his military record is granted in part. His DD 214 shall be corrected to show that he is entitled to wear the Coast Guard Restricted Duty Ribbon.

April 29, 2016

