

**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. 2016-057**

SUMMARY OF THE RECORD

The applicant asked the Board to correct her DD 214 to reflect the weapons and coxswain qualifications that, she alleged, she earned during her active service but were omitted from her DD 214. She stated that she discovered the alleged errors on January 2, 2016. The applicant's official military record contains a DD 214 which shows that she served from December 8, 1986, to March 7, 1992, received the marksman rifle ribbon and the pistol marksman ribbon, and completed the NAVRULS course in July 1989. Her record also contains a Page 7 documenting her coxswain certification on March 29, 1990.

On July 20, 2016, the Judge Advocate General (JAG) of the Coast Guard submitted an advisory opinion recommending that the Board deny relief in accordance with a memorandum submitted by the Commander, Personnel Service Center (PSC). PSC argued that the application is untimely and that the applicant's DD 214 is accurate and requires no corrections. PSC stated that block 13 of her DD 214 clearly lists her rifle and pistol qualifications and noted that there is nothing in her record to indicate that she qualified with any other weapons. PSC also stated that the applicant earned a temporary coxswain qualification but argued that it should not be listed on her DD 214 because only permanent qualifications are listed on a DD 214. PSC noted that the applicant did not earn the permanent coxswain certification because she was discharged two years after earning the temporary coxswain qualification, and Article 4.B.2. of the Military Qualifications and Insignia Manual states that enlisted personnel are eligible for permanent wear of the Coxswain Insignia provided they complete five cumulative years of satisfactory service at an operational unit as a certified coxswain on a Coast Guard boat.

On August 3, 2016, the Chair sent a copy of the advisory opinion to the applicant and invited her to respond within 30 days. No response was received.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The application is untimely because the applicant received her DD 214 with the alleged errors in 1992. Moreover, a cursory review of the merits reveals that she is unlikely to prevail. Her DD 214 already lists her rifle and pistol qualifications, and there is nothing in her record to indicate that she qualified with any other weapons. Regarding the Coxswain Insignia, the record shows that it should not be listed on her DD 214 because, while she qualified as a coxswain and so was temporarily entitled to wear the insignia while serving at an operational unit, she did not become entitled to wear the insignia permanently. As the JAG noted, entitlement to wear the insignia permanently requires five cumulative years of satisfactory service as a certified coxswain

at an operational unit, and the applicant was discharged just two years after she qualified as a coxswain. In addition, Article 4.B.1. of the Military Qualifications and Insignia Manual states that enlisted personnel who qualify as a coxswain may wear the insignia on a temporary basis “while assigned to the operational unit where certified.” Therefore, the applicant’s right to wear the insignia ended when she left her operational unit, and it should not be included on her DD 214 as a permanent award.

Accordingly, the Board finds that no correction of her record is necessary and it will not waive the statute of limitations. Her requests should be denied.

(ORDER AND SIGNATURES ON NEXT PAGE)

ORDER

The application of former [REDACTED], USCG, for correction of her military record is denied.

November 18, 2016

