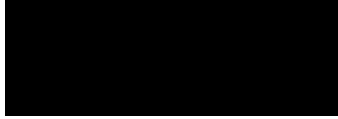


**DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS**

Application for the Correction of
the Coast Guard Record of:

**FINAL DECISION
BCMR Docket No. 2016-151**



SUMMARY OF THE RECORD

The applicant asked the Board to correct his discharge form DD 214 to show that he received the Coast Guard Sea Service Ribbon. He argued that he is eligible for the ribbon because he served 1 year, 1 month, and 4 days at sea during his enlistment. He stated that he discovered the alleged error in his record on February 29, 2016, when he was enrolling in the Coast Guard Auxiliary. The applicant's record shows that he enlisted in the Coast Guard on August 22, 1983, following 3 years of service in the Army. After indoctrination, he was assigned to the CGC [REDACTED] from September 16 to 26, 1983, and received sea pay. From September 26, 1983, to May 18, 1984, he was assigned to the CGC [REDACTED] and received sea pay. On May 19, 1984, he was transferred to an "A" School for 11 weeks to become a [REDACTED]. From July 1984 to July 1985, the applicant served as an [REDACTED] at Coast Guard Headquarters. From July 1985 until his discharge on August 21, 1987, he served as an [REDACTED] at Station [REDACTED]. His DD 214, however, indicates that he performed 1 year, 1 month, and 4 days of sea duty.

On January 6, 2017, the Coast Guard submitted an advisory opinion and recommended that the Board deny relief, arguing that the applicant is not eligible for the Sea Service Ribbon because his DD 214 is incorrect since he only performed eight months of sea service from September 16, 1983, to May 18, 1984. The Coast Guard noted that Chapter 5.A.21.a. of the Medals and Awards Manual states that the Sea Service Ribbon is awarded to members who satisfactorily complete a minimum of 12 months cumulative sea duty.

On January 10, 2017, the Chair sent the applicant a copy of the advisory opinion and invited him to respond within 30 days. No response was received.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The application is untimely because the applicant was discharged in 1987 and knew at the time that he had not been awarded a Sea Service Ribbon but did not submit his application to the Board until 2016. The Board will not excuse the untimeliness or waive the statute of limitations because a cursory review indicates that he is not entitled to the Sea Service Ribbon. The Medals and Awards Manual, Chapter 5.A.21.a., states that the ribbon is awarded to active and inactive duty members of the Coast Guard who satisfactorily complete a minimum of 12 months cumulative sea duty. The Board finds that the applicant is not entitled to the ribbon because, despite the information on his DD 214, which is erroneous, his record clearly shows that he completed only 8 months of sea service and therefore does not meet the eligibility requirement. Therefore, the application should be denied.

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

April 21, 2017

