

**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. 2016-154**



---

**SUMMARY OF THE RECORD**

The applicant asked the Board to correct his record to show that he received the National Defense Service Medal (NDSM). He stated that he believes he should have been awarded the NDSM because he served “during the Vietnam era.” In support of his application, he submitted a copy of his DD 214. He stated that he discovered that he should have received this medal based on his enlistment in 1975, but that the “proper paperwork was never completed.”

On November 17, 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 stated that the applicant is ineligible to receive the NDSM because his record shows that he served from August 26, 1974, to August 24, 1979. To be eligible for the medal pursuant to the Coast Guard Medals and Awards Manual, a member of the armed forces must have completed honorable service for any period from June 27, 1950, to July 28, 1954; January 1, 1961, to August 14, 1974; from August 2, 1990, to November 30, 1995; or from September 12, 2001, to a date to be determined by the Secretary of Defense. The applicant served from August 26, 1974, to August 24, 1979. Accordingly, PSC recommended that his application be denied.

On November 18, 2016, 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 1979 but did not submit his application to the Board until 2016, and the Board will not excuse the untimeliness or waive the statute of limitations because a cursory review indicates that there is no error in his record. The Medals and Awards Manual states that the NDSM was authorized for service during specific periods of time. The Board finds that the applicant is not entitled to the NDSM because he completed service outside of the periods of time authorized for the NDSM and so does not meet the eligibility requirement. Therefore, the application should be denied.

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

**ORDER**

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

April 21, 2017

