


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

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Application for the Correction of  
the Coast Guard Record of:

**BCMR Docket No. 2019-066**

  
PS3 (former)

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**FINAL DECISION**

This proceeding was conducted according to the provisions of 10 U.S.C. § 1552 and 14 U.S.C. § 2507. The Chair docketed the case after receiving the applicant's completed application on January 29, 2019, and this decision of the Board was prepared pursuant to 33 C.F.R. § 52.61(c).

This final decision, dated September 4, 2020, 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 Port Security Specialist third class (PS3) who served in the Coast Guard Reserve, asked the Board to correct his record to show that he received the following:

1. Humanitarian Service Medal (HSM)
2. Kuwait Liberation Medal (from both Saudi Arabia and Kuwait)
3. Coast Guard Meritorious Unit Commendation with "O" Device
4. Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation
5. Sea Service Ribbon
6. Port Security pin/insignia

The applicant stated that he discovered the alleged errors in his record on December 30, 2018, when he received Test Form 16-10 from the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC). He submitted a copy of the form, which shows that, according to his records on file at NPRC, he is eligible for the Coast Guard Bicentennial Unit Commendation, National Defense Service Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal, the Pistol Marksmanship Ribbon, and the Rifle Marksmanship Ribbon.

In support of his requests, the applicant also submitted copies of the following:

1. A letter from a Congressman dated December 10, 1991, congratulating the applicant for outstanding performance in the Persian Gulf Theater (Operation Desert Storm).

2. A letter from the Commanding Officer of a Port Security Unit (PSU) to the applicant, dated January 15, 1991, notifying him that he had qualified as a boat crewman for the 22' Trailerable Port Security Boat.
3. An Honorable Discharge certificate showing that the applicant was honorably discharged from the Coast Guard Reserve on April 24, 1995.

### SUMMARY OF THE RECORD

The applicant enlisted in the Coast Guard Reserve on May 25, 1987, for a term of eight years. After completing recruit training, he attended Port Securityman "A" School in 1987 and was assigned to a reserve unit in Milwaukee. His record contains a DD 214 showing that he served on active duty at the Reserve Training Center in Yorktown, Virginia from May 25, 1987, to October 9, 1987. It shows that he did not perform any foreign or sea service and that he earned the following ribbons:

- CG Pistol Marksman Ribbon
- CG Rifle Marksman Ribbon

Following "A" School, the applicant was assigned to the Reserve unit in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. His record contains a Reserve Orders and Pay Sheet ordering him to report to the local Maritime Safety Office for 12 days for "OJT-PS Training" from June 4, 1990, to June 15, 1990. His record also contains another set of orders instructing him to report to Camp Perry from August 19, 1990, to August 25, 1990, for "OTH-Exercise."

The applicant was ordered to Camp Perry for Special Active Duty for Training (SADT) from August 19, 1990, to August 25, 1990, and was then involuntarily recalled to active duty and reported to Camp Perry, Ohio, on September 15, 1990, for a 90-day overseas deployment, through December 13, 1990.

The applicant's record contains a second DD 214 showing that he served on active duty with a PSU from September 15, 1990, to April 5, 1991, performed 5 months and 28 days of foreign service, and earned the following medals, badges, citations, and campaign ribbons:

- CG Pistol Marksman Ribbon
- CG Rifle Marksman Ribbon
- CG Bicentennial Unit Commendation Ribbon
- National Defense Service Medal

On October 30, 1991, the Coast Guard placed a DD 215 in the applicant's record, correcting his DD 214 dated April 5, 1991, to show that he had also earned the Southwest Asia Service Medal while deployed overseas.

The applicant's record contains three Add Award Code and Date forms prepared and signed by a chief yeoman at the Ninth Coast Guard District:

- The Add Award Code and Date form, dated September 3, 1991, states that, in addition to the

medals listed above, the applicant is eligible to wear the Meritorious Unit Commendation, effective June 24, 1991.

- The second such form, dated January 28, 1993, states that he is also eligible for the Kuwait Liberation Medal<sup>1</sup> and the Southwest Asia Service Medal as of that date.
- The third form, dated March 30, 1993, states that he is also eligible for the Navy Sea Service Ribbon, effective February 25, 1993.

The applicant's record also contains an August 3, 1992, memorandum that he sent to the District Commander, acknowledging that he had received the Kuwait Liberation Medal on December 19, 1992.<sup>2</sup> His record also contains a letter to the applicant from the District Commander, notifying him that he was authorized to wear the Southwest Asia Service Medal for his participation in Operation Desert Storm. Finally, his record contains a Page 7 dated September 24, 1992, on which the applicant acknowledges receipt of the Southwest Asia Service Medal for his participation in Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm.

### APPLICABLE POLICY

COMDTINST M1900.4D contains the Commandant's instructions for completing the DD 214, and Chapter 1.D.2 of this instruction provides that a DD 214 must be accurate as of the date of discharge or release from active duty shown on the DD 214.

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." It does not mention a Port Security Pin or Insignia.

Chapter 5.A.6 of the Medals and Awards Manual states that the HSM may be awarded to members who distinguish themselves as individuals or as members of units or ships by meritorious, direct, non-routine participation in a significant military operation of a humanitarian nature. Enclosure 17 of the manual lists the operations for which the HSM is awarded, but the manual does not include any operations in the Milwaukee area or the Middle East during the applicant's service.

Chapter 6.A.4 of the Medals and Awards Manual states that the Kuwait Liberation Medal (Saudi Arabia) was authorized by the Government of Saudi Arabia for members of the Coalition Forces who participated in Operation Desert Storm and the liberation of Kuwait from January 17 to February 28, 1991. The Deputy Secretary of Defense authorized the acceptance and wearing of this medal. Eligibility requirements for the award are as follows:

a. In order to qualify, one of the following requirements must have been met:

(1) Served in support of Operation Desert Storm between January 17 and February 28, 1991, in the following areas: Persian Gulf, Red Sea, Gulf of Oman, or Gulf of Aden; that portion of the Arabian Sea that lies north of 10 degrees north latitude and west of 68 degrees east longitude; or the total land areas of Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Omar, Bahrain, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates.

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<sup>1</sup> The form does not state whether this Kuwait Liberation Medal was the one authorized by Kuwait or Saudi Arabia.

<sup>2</sup> These dates are correct. The letter is dated August 3, 1992, but the letter states that the applicant received the medal on December 19, 1992.

- (2) Attached to or regularly served for one or more days with an organization that participated in ground and/or shore operations.
- (3) Attached to or regularly served for one or more days aboard a naval vessel that directly supported military operations.
- (4) Actually participated as a crewmember in one or more aerial flights that supported military operations in the areas designated above.
- (5) Served on temporary duty for 30 consecutive days during this period. That time limitation may be waived for personnel who participated in actual combat operations.

Chapter 6.A.5 of the Medals and Awards Manual states that the Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait) was authorized by the Government of Kuwait for members of the Coalition Forces who participated in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. The Deputy Secretary of Defense authorized the acceptance and wearing of this medal on August 7, 1995.

- a. Eligibility. The Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait) is awarded to members of the Armed Forces of the U.S. who:
  - (1) Served in support of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm between August 2, 1990, and August 31, 1993, in one or more of the following areas: Arabian Gulf, Red Sea, Gulf of Oman, Gulf of Aden; that portion of the Arabian Sea that lies north of 10 degrees north latitude and west of 68 degrees east longitude; or the total land areas of Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Omar, Bahrain, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates.
  - (2) Attached to or regularly served for one or more days with an organization that participated in ground and/or shore operations.
  - (3) Attached to or regularly served for one or more days aboard a naval vessel that directly supported military operations.
  - (4) Actually participated as a crewmember in one or more aerial flights that supported military operations in the areas designated above.

Chapter 3.B.5 of the Coast Guard Medals and Awards Manual states that the Coast Guard Meritorious Unit Commendation (MUC) was authorized by the Commandant on November 13, 1973, and may be awarded to any unit of the Coast Guard that has distinguished itself by either valorous or meritorious achievement or service in support of Coast Guard operations not involving combat. Normal performance of duty or participation in a large number of operational missions does not in itself justify the award.

Chapter 3.B.6 of the Medals and Awards Manual states that the Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation (NMUC) was authorized by SECNAVNOTE 1650 on July 17, 1967, and may be awarded by the Secretary of the Navy to any unit of the Navy, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard that has distinguished itself, under combat or non-combat conditions, by either valorous or meritorious achievement, but whose achievement is not sufficient to justify the award of the Navy Unit Commendation. Coast Guard personnel are eligible for this award only if they were serving with a cited unit and meet the eligibility criteria per REFERENCE (C) 1650.1 (series). Enclosure 8 to the manual states that the NMUC was awarded to Task Group 151.9 Harbor Defense Command for its service from September 19, 1990, to May 1, 1991.

Chapter 5.A.19. of the Medals and Awards Manual states that the Coast Guard Sea Service Ribbon is awarded to active and inactive duty members of the Coast Guard and Coast Guard Reserve or non-Coast Guard personnel who, under temporary or permanent assignment, satisfactorily complete a minimum of 12 months of cumulative sea duty. For the purposes of the award, sea duty is defined as duty performed aboard any commissioned Coast Guard cutter 65 feet or more in length.

Section 2.420 of SECNAVINST 1650.1H states that the Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (SSDR) may be awarded to personnel of the United States Navy and Marine Corps. Each Service has distinct eligibility criteria. Navy personnel assigned to Marine Corps units follow Marine Corps policy. Personnel assigned to U.S. (including Alaska and Hawaii) homeported ships, deploying units, or units of the Marine Corps operating forces are eligible for the SSDR upon completion of 12 months of accumulated sea duty, which includes at least one deployment of 90 consecutive days.

Chapter 8.B. of COMDTINST M1200.1, the Military Qualifications and Insignia Manual, states that the Port Security Insignia was created to recognize individuals qualified in PSU operations. The insignia is awarded to personnel who served with PSUs, deployed to an in-theater operation prior to May 1, 1995, and meet the following qualifications:

- Graduate of the Camp Blanding PSU course or a member of PSU 301/302/303 and attended the Desert Shield or Uphold Democracy ramp-up training at Camp Perry, Ohio, or the U.S. Marine Combat Skills Course at Quantico, Virginia; and
- Successfully deployed as a member of the PSU during Operation Desert Shield or Operation Desert Storm for a minimum of 30 days, or during Operation Uphold Democracy for its duration.

Those who completed the training but did not deploy for Operations Desert Shield or Desert Storm must have been a member of a PSU for at least two years prior to May 1, 1995, and have served on active duty for certain other deployments. After 1995, the member must also have completed multiple Personnel Qualification Standards.

Chapter 8.C.3 of the manual states that members no longer in the Coast Guard Reserve and meeting the criteria in Chapter 8.B. may submit completed packages to the Commandant (CG-721).

ALDIST 221/99 was released on June 22, 1999, and establishes qualification standards and procedures for awarding the Port Security Insignia. It mirrors Chapter 8.B of the Military Qualifications and Insignia Manual. Paragraph 2 of the ALDIST states that insignia qualification will be divided into three areas, and the first is for those who served prior to May 1, 1995, and participated in an operation. Qualifications for those who served with PSUs and deployed to an operation prior to May 1, 1995, include:

- A. Graduate of the Camp Blanding PSU course or a member of PSU 301/302/303 and attended the Desert Shield or Uphold Democracy ramp-up training at Camp Perry;

- B. Successfully deployed as a member of a PSU during Operation Desert Shield or Storm for a minimum of 30 days, or Operation Uphold Democracy for its duration.

### **VIEWS OF THE COAST GUARD**

On July 30, 2019, a judge advocate (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). In recommending denial, the JAG adopted the findings and analysis provided in a memorandum prepared by the Personnel Service Center (PSC) in addition to providing its own findings and analysis.

PSC stated that the application is untimely and argued that the application should be denied because three of the medals sought by the applicant – the Kuwait Liberation Medal; Meritorious Unit Commendation Medal; and the Navy Sea Service Ribbon – are already listed in his official military record. PSC further argued that the applicant's request to add the HSM and the Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation to his record should be denied because he did not provide any documentation showing that he is eligible to receive either of them and a search of his personnel record did not reveal that he is eligible for either medal.

Regarding the applicant's request for a Port Security Insignia, PSC argued that relief should be denied because the PSUs were not officially commissioned until May 1, 1995, and the applicant was discharged on April 24, 1995. Moreover, PSC argued, there is no documentation in his record to show that he met the criteria for the insignia. The JAG recommended that, if the applicant believes that his time at Camp Perry qualifies him for the insignia, then he should request the insignia in accordance with Chapter 8.C.3. of the Military Qualifications and Insignia Manual.

The JAG reinforced both of PSC's arguments, arguing that relief should be denied because there is no evidence in the applicant's records that he is eligible to receive any medals that are not already listed on his DD 214s.

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

On July 31, 2019, the BCMR sent the applicant a copy of the Coast Guard's views and invited him to respond within thirty days. He responded on August 6, 2019, and argued that his application is not untimely because he was unaware of the missing medals until he received the list of medals in his record from NPRC. He also stated that he did not know there was a time limit for fixing errors. Regarding his requests that medals be added to his record, the applicant argued that he and other members of his PSU received the HSM and the Meritorious Unit Commendation.

In support of the applicant's argument that he is eligible to receive the HSM, he submitted a copy of a list of operations for which the HSM is authorized. He did not indicate if he participated in any of the operations listed on the document, nor did he state where he obtained the list.

In support of his argument that his DD 214 should be corrected to show that he received the Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation, the applicant submitted a copy of the citation for the Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation issued to Task Group 151.9 for service and support of Coalition Forces engaged in hostilities in the Persian Gulf during Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm from September 19, 1990, to March 1, 1991.

The applicant also submitted a copy of a document listing the units “recommended for participation” and it includes the applicant’s PSU for the period he served overseas.

Regarding his request for the Port Security Insignia, the applicant argued that he is eligible to receive it because other members of his Reserve unit received it, and he submitted forms showing that he received training at Camp Perry, Ohio, before being deployed to Saudi Arabia with the PSU for 5 months and 28 days. He also submitted a copy of a document dated April 1991, “Subject: Commemorative Lapel Pin,” stating that enclosed is a Coast Guard Port Security Unit lapel pin, commissioned, produced, and purchased for distribution by a Coast Guard Auxiliarist, and that it is being presented in commemoration of the Coast Guard’s participation in the operations Desert Shield, Storm, and Sword. He also submitted a copy of ALDIST 221/99, issued in 1999, which establishes the qualification standards and procedures for awarding the Port Security Insignia. The applicant did not explain exactly how the ALDIST supports his request.

The applicant argued that, despite the Coast Guard’s assertion that he did not attend the Desert Shield ramp-up, he was sent to Camp Perry with his PSU on two occasions, and this proves that he deployed to Saudi Arabia and participated in Desert Shield. Finally, he noted that he is not surprised that his record is missing documentation of his service because, while he was in Saudi Arabia, his Reserve unit repeatedly called his house asking why he was not coming in for his monthly drills.

In his response to the Coast Guard’s recommendation, the applicant also submitted a copy of a letter from the President dated August 20, 2002, in which President Bush pays respect to members of the applicant’s PSU who were reuniting in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on October 12, 2002. He also submitted a copy of an Endorsement to Orders which shows that, on September 15, 1990, the applicant was assigned to a unit called “Camel’s Hump.” The applicant did not state how the orders support his allegations. Finally, he submitted copies of a USCG TPSB Mobilization Boat Crewmember Qualifications form which apparently shows that the applicant qualified as a boat crewmember.

## FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The Board makes the following findings and conclusions based on 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>3</sup> The applicant submitted his application to the Board on December 7, 2019, but he was discharged from the Reserve in 1995 and would have known at the time which medals he had been awarded and which medals were listed on his DD 214. Therefore, his application is untimely.

2. The Board may excuse the untimeliness of an application if it is in the interest of justice to do so.<sup>4</sup> In *Allen v. Card*, 799 F. Supp. 158 (D.D.C. 1992), the court stated that the Board

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<sup>3</sup> 10 U.S.C. § 1552(b) and 33 C.F.R. § 52.22.

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*; 33 C.F.R. 52.22.

should not deny an application for untimeliness without “analyz[ing] both the reasons for the delay and the potential merits of the claim based on a cursory review”<sup>5</sup> to determine whether the interest of justice supports a waiver of the statute of limitations. The court noted that “the longer the delay has been and the weaker the reasons are for the delay, the more compelling the merits would need to be to justify a full review.”<sup>6</sup> In accordance with this direction, the Board has conducted a cursory review of the merits and finds that, because some of the applicant’s claims have substantial merit, the untimeliness of the application should be excused.

3. The applicant alleged that his Coast Guard military record is erroneous and unjust because it does not include the HSM, two Kuwait Liberation Medals, a Sea Service Ribbon, Meritorious Unit Commendation, Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation, and the Port Security Insignia. When considering allegations of error and injustice, the Board begins its analysis by presuming that the disputed information in the applicant’s military record is correct as it appears in the military record, and the applicant bears the burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence that the disputed information is erroneous or unjust.<sup>7</sup> 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.”<sup>8</sup>

4. The Coast Guard recommended that the Board deny the applicant’s requests to add medals or awards to his DD 214, arguing that all of his earned medals are already on his DD 214s and that his record does not support his allegation that he is eligible to receive any other medals, awards, or the Port Security Insignia. The Board disagrees, because a review of his records indicates that his final DD 214, dated April 5, 1991, does not include all the medals and awards that he had earned by that date, as explained below:

- a. Humanitarian Service Medal: The applicant’s sole argument regarding the HSM is that other members of his PSU earned the medal, so he should have it as well. He submitted a seven-page document of unknown origin, listing the operations for which the HSM was awarded, but the list is not from the Medals and Awards Manual; nor did the applicant identify which operation from the list he participated in. The Medals and Awards Manual lists numerous operations for which the HSM has been awarded, but the list does not include any operations that the applicant claimed to have participated in. Accordingly, the Board finds that his request for the HSM should be denied because there is nothing in his record to show that he is eligible to receive it; nor did he submit any evidence that he is entitled to receive it.
- b. Kuwait Liberation Medals: The applicant asked the Board to correct his record to show that he received both authorized Kuwait Liberation Medals: one authorized by Saudi Arabia and the other authorized by Kuwait. His record shows that he received a Kuwait Liberation Medal, but there is nothing in the record to show whether it was the one authorized by Kuwait or Saudi Arabia. According to the Medals and Awards Manual,

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<sup>5</sup> *Allen v. Card*, 799 F. Supp. 158, 164 (D.D.C. 1992).

<sup>6</sup> *Id.* at 164, 165; *see also Dickson v. Secretary of Defense*, 68 F.3d 1396 (D.C. Cir. 1995).

<sup>7</sup> 33 C.F.R. § 52.24(b).

<sup>8</sup> *Arens v. United States*, 969 F.2d 1034, 1037 (Fed. Cir. 1992); *Sanders v. United States*, 594 F.2d 804, 813 (Ct. Cl. 1979).



the medal issued by Saudi Arabia is for service between January 17 and February 28, 1991, in Operation Desert Storm and the liberation of Kuwait, and the one issued by Kuwait is for service in support of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm between August 2, 1990, and August 31, 1993. The defined geographic limits for eligibility are identical for the two medals, and both may be awarded for “ground and/or shore operations.”

The applicant’s record contains numerous documents which prove that he was on active duty and deployed overseas in support of Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield from September 15, 1990, to April 5, 1991, including an Add Award Code form prepared by a chief yeoman on January 28, 1993, which states that the applicant received the Kuwait Liberation Medal on December 19, 1992, and a letter from the applicant to his CO dated August 3, 1991, acknowledging receipt of the medal. The Board also notes that his record contains a letter from a Congressman dated December 10, 1991, congratulating the applicant for outstanding performance in the Persian Gulf Theater (Operation Desert Storm). Accordingly, the Board finds that the applicant has proven by a preponderance of the evidence that he is eligible to receive the Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait) and the Kuwait Liberation Medal (Saudi Arabia), and the Board should order the Coast Guard to correct his DD 214 to reflect his receipt of both of these awards.

- c. Coast Guard Meritorious Unit Commendation with “O” Device: After reviewing his complete military record, the Board finds that it does show that the applicant received this commendation. His record contains an Add Award Code form prepared by a chief yeoman on September 4, 1991, a few months after he returned from his overseas deployment. The form states that the applicant received the Meritorious Unit Commendation on June 24, 1991. The applicant apparently earned the commendation for his service while deployed overseas with his PSU from September 15, 1990, to April 5, 1991, because, according to Enclosure (7) of the Medals and Awards Manual, members participating in Operation Desert Shield or Desert Storm during the period September 16, 1990, to June 3, 1991, are entitled to wear the Meritorious Unit Commendation. Because the record indicates that the applicant’s PSU received this commendation for its overseas deployment, the Board finds that he has proven by a preponderance of the evidence that it should be added to his DD 214 documenting his active service from September 15, 1990, to April 5, 1991. In addition, because the PSU received this commendation for operations during the Gulf War, the Operational Distinguishing (“O”) Device should be included.
- d. Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation: The applicant submitted a copy of a citation for the award, and it states that the Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation was issued to Task Group 151.9 for service and support of Coalition Forces engaged in hostilities in the Persian Gulf during Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm from September 19, 1990, to March 1, 1991, and the list of units eligible to receive the commendation includes the applicant’s PSU. He was assigned to the PSU at least from September 15, 1990, to April 5, 1991, so the preponderance of the evidence shows that he is eligible to receive this Navy commendation. In addition, because his PSU earned the commendation for the overseas deployment documented by the applicant’s DD 214 dated April 5, 1991, the Board finds that it should be added to that DD 214.

- e. Sea Service Ribbon: The applicant alleged that his Coast Guard records should show that he earned the Sea Service Ribbon. The Board has reviewed his military records and finds that there is an Add Award Form prepared by a chief yeoman on March 30, 1993, stating that the applicant is eligible for the Navy Sea Service Ribbon, but the applicant's two DD 214s do not show that he performed any sea duty, so the Board is unable to verify that he qualified for the Sea Service Ribbon. Eligibility for both the Coast Guard Sea Service Ribbon and the Navy Sea Service Deployment Ribbon requires that the member have a temporary or permanent assignment to a ship that is at least 65 feet long and complete at least 12 months of cumulative sea duty. There is nothing in the applicant's record to show that he was ever assigned to a ship or that he performed 12 months of sea duty. Nor is there anything in his record to show that he ever served aboard a Navy vessel. Accordingly, the Board will not order the Coast Guard to add the Sea Service Ribbon to the applicant's DD 214.
- f. Port Security Insignia: The applicant alleged that he received the Port Security Insignia when he was in the Coast Guard but that it is not listed in his records. The Coast Guard recommended denying this request, arguing that there is insufficient evidence in his record to prove that the applicant is eligible for the insignia and that the PSUs were not officially commissioned until May 1, 1995. Chapter 8.B. of the Military Qualifications and Insignia Manual and ALDIST 221/99 list the requirements for eligibility for the Port Security Insignia and show that a member of the applicant's PSU who attended the Desert Shield or Uphold Democracy ramp-up training at Camp Perry and successfully deployed in-theater in support of Desert Shield or Desert Storm for at least 30 days before May 1, 1995, is eligible for the Port Security Insignia. The applicant's record shows that he was a member of one of the PSUs listed as eligible for the insignia; he reported to Camp Perry for Special Active Duty For Training (SADT) from August 19, 1990, to August 25, 1990, just before his overseas deployment; and he was involuntarily recalled to active duty and reported to Camp Perry, Ohio, on September 15, 1990, for a 90-day deployment overseas. His record does not expressly state that he went to Camp Perry for the Desert Shield or Uphold Democracy ramp-up training, but several documents in his record show that he deployed as a member of the PSU during Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm for at least 30 days. Accordingly, the Board finds that he has proved by a preponderance of the evidence that he is eligible for the insignia, in accordance with Chapter 8.B of the Military Qualifications and Insignia Manual.<sup>9</sup>

The DD 214 instruction, PSCINST 1900.1B, authorizes the entry of "all awards" in block 13 on a DD 214 and states that block 13 is for "decorations, medals, badges, citations and campaign ribbons awarded or authorized." But the word "insignia" does not appear in the DD 214 instruction, and the Medals and Awards Manual does not list any of the Coast Guard's various insignias as medals or awards. Therefore, although the applicant's record should be corrected to show that he is eligible for the insignia, it

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<sup>9</sup> In his response to the Coast Guard's advisory opinion, the applicant submitted a copy of an April 1991 letter which accompanied the issuance of a Coast Guard Port Security Unit lapel pin. The letter states that the pin was commissioned, produced, and purchased by a Coast Guard Auxiliarist, so the preponderance of the evidence indicates that this lapel pin is not the same Port Security Insignia listed in the Coast Guard Military Qualifications and Insignia Manual.

should not be entered on his DD 214. Instead, the Coast Guard should enter a CG-3307 (“Page 7”) in his record showing that he is eligible to wear the insignia in accordance with ALDIST 211/99.

5. Therefore, partial relief is warranted. The applicant’s request to correct his record to show that he received the Humanitarian Service Medal and the Sea Service Medal should be denied, but his record should be corrected to show that he received the Port Security Insignia, which should be entered in his record on a CG-3307, and the following, which should be added to his DD 214 by issuance of a DD 215:

- a. Kuwait Liberation Medal (Saudi Arabia)
- b. Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait)
- c. Coast Guard Meritorious Unit Commendation with “O” device
- d. Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation

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

**ORDER**

The application of former PS3 [REDACTED], USCGR, for correction of his military record is granted in part:

- The Coast Guard shall add a CG-3307 to his record to show that he is eligible for the Port Security Insignia for his deployment with the PSU in support of Operation Desert Storm in accordance with ALDIST 221/99.
- The Coast Guard shall prepare a DD 215 correcting his DD 214 dated April 5, 1991, to show that he is entitled to the following awards and medals, in addition to those already listed on his DD 214s and DD 215:
  - Kuwait Liberation Medal (Saudi Arabia)
  - Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait)
  - Coast Guard Meritorious Unit Commendation with “O” Device
  - Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation

All other requests are denied.

September 4, 2020

