

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

Application for Correction
of Coast Guard Record of:

BCMR Docket
No. 1997-136

FINAL DECISION

Chairman:

This is a proceeding under the provisions of section 1552 of title 10, United States Code. It was commenced on June 6, 1997, upon the BCMR's receipt of the applicant's request for correction of his military record.

This final decision, dated June 11, 1998, is signed by the three duly appointed members who were designated to serve as the Board in this case.

Application for Relief

The applicant, a former electronics technician third class (ET3; pay grade E-4), asked the Board to change the date of the DEERS [Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System] enrollment of her two stepchildren, [REDACTED] from December 1, 1996 to August 1, 1996.

According to DEERS, December 1, 1996 was the date indicated for enrollment of her stepchildren. Dental services were, however, provided before the stepchildren's enrollment date. On October 17, 1996, dental services of \$109 were provided to [REDACTED] and on October 24, 1996 dental services \$55 were provided to [REDACTED]. Since these dental services were provided before the DEERS enrollment date, DEERS did not pay for them.

According to the applicant's copy of government records, the DEERS date of enrollment was wrong. DD Form 1172, the Application for Uniformed Service Identification Card DEERS Enrollment, listed September 25, 1996 as the date of entry of the stepchildren. On September 25, 1996, the applicant entered the names of her stepchildren in section II of the Form, and sections IV and V were signed by her commanding officer. The dental services were provided on October 17 and 24, 1996.

Views of the Coast Guard

On May 4, 1998, the Board received an advisory opinion from the Chief Counsel of the Coast Guard. The Chief Counsel recommended "administrative closure in the subject case" after notice to the applicant.

According to the Chief Counsel, the applicant's stepchildren were enrolled in DEERS on May 25, 1996, the date she married the stepchildren's father. The DEERS enrollment date "is the date when dependency is established."

The Chief Counsel informed the Board that DEERS data is a Department of Defense (DOD) record, not a Coast Guard military record. The Chief Counsel urged her to contact her Personnel Reporting Unit for help in any necessary correcting of her enrollment.

Response of the Applicant to the Views of the Coast Guard

On May 11, 1998, the Board sent a copy of the views of the Coast Guard to the applicant, and encouraged the applicant to respond to those views.

The applicant did not submit a response.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

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

1. The application for adjustment of the date of enrollment was timely.
2. The applicant and her stepchildren were enrolled in DEERS, a DOD system.
3. The stepchildren were enrolled in DEERS on May 25, 1996, when the applicant married their father. On September 25, 1996, they became part of DEERS.
4. Since the dental expenditures occurred after the stepchildren were enrolled, DEERS was liable therefor.

ORDER

The military record of [REDACTED] USCG, shall not be changed because her Coast Guard record does not appear to be inaccurate.

