



**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**  
BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF NAVAL RECORDS  
701 S. COURTHOUSE ROAD, SUITE 1001  
ARLINGTON, VA 22204-2490

Docket No. 10033-24  
Ref: Signature Date

From: Chairman, Board for Correction of Naval Records  
To: Secretary of the Navy

Subj: REVIEW OF NAVAL RECORD OF [REDACTED], USN (RET.),  
XXX-XX-[REDACTED]

Ref: (a) 10 U.S.C. §1552  
(b) SECNAVINST 1650.1D, Navy and Marine Corps Awards Manual of 10 Jul 74

Encl: (1) DD Form 149 with attachments  
(2) Case summary  
(3) Subject's naval record (excerpts)  
(4) Advisory Opinion of 14 May 2025

1. Pursuant to the provisions of reference (a), Petitioner, a former member of the Navy, filed enclosure (1), requesting the following awards be reflected on his Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge (DD Form 214N): [REDACTED] Campaign Medal (VCM) with one star, Combat Action Ribbon (CAR), [REDACTED] Cross of Gallantry Citation with Palm, and [REDACTED] Civil Actions Citation with Palm. Additionally, the Board also considered the advisory opinion furnished by the Navy Department Board of Decorations and Medals that was considered partially favorable. Enclosures (1) through (4) apply.

2. The Board, consisting of [REDACTED], [REDACTED], and [REDACTED], reviewed Petitioner's allegations of error and injustice on 19 May 2025, and pursuant to its regulations, determined that the corrective action indicated below should be taken. Documentary material considered by the Board consisted of Petitioner's application together with all material submitted in support thereof, relevant portions of Petitioner's naval record, applicable statutes, regulations, and policies, to include reference (b).

3. The Board, having reviewed all the facts of record pertaining to Petitioner's allegations of error and injustice, finds as follows:

a. Before applying to this Board, Petitioner exhausted all administrative remedies available under existing law and regulations within the Department of the Navy.

b. Although enclosure (1) was not filed in a timely manner, it is in the interest of justice to review the application on its merits.

c. Petitioner enlisted in the Navy and began a period of active service on 23 September 1969.

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d. Petitioner deployed to [REDACTED] with Naval Special Warfare Group, [REDACTED] Detachment [REDACTED] on 27 May 1970. The petitioner was medically evacuated on 23 August 1970 with non-hostile related illness. Subsequently, Petitioner was placed on the Temporary Disability Retired List (TDRL) on 20 April 1971. Petitioner was transferred to the Retired List effective 1 March 1976.

e. Petitioner contends that he was medically evacuated out of country before he could be presented with the awards he is requesting and did not realize they were missing until informed by a Veterans Service Officer. The Petitioner submitted two witness statements, service record documents, and in-service medical records in support of his claim.

f. As part of the Board's review process, the Department of Navy Board of Decorations and Medals issued a partially favorable AO dated 14 May 2025. The AO stated in pertinent part:

"The Petitioner is entitled to the CAR, Gallantry Cross Unit Citation, and Civil Actions Medal Unit Citation but is not entitled to the VCM.

The VCM is eligible for U.S. Armed Forces personnel who have served 6 months in [REDACTED], or within the geographical limits bounded by the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal from 1 March 1961 to 28 March 1973. Temporary Additional duty order submitted by the Petitioner indicate that he arrived in [REDACTED] on 27 May 1970.

Petitioner was in [REDACTED] until 23 August 1970, when he was medically evacuated to [REDACTED], [REDACTED]. The Petitioner spent 88 days in [REDACTED] and did not meet the 6-month requirement for the VCM. The Petitioner's medical issues were unrelated to hostile action; therefore, he did not qualify for the VCM based on criteria related to being wounded or injured in hostile action. The Petitioner is therefore not entitled to the VCM."

## CONCLUSION

Upon careful review and consideration of all of the evidence of record, and in concurrence with the AO findings, the Board determined that Petitioner's request warrants partial relief in the interests of justice.

In view of the above, the Board directs the following corrective action.

## RECOMMENDATION

That Petitioner be issued a Correction to DD Form 214N (DD Form 215) indicating entitlement to the Combat Action Ribbon, Republic of [REDACTED] Gallantry Cross Unit Citation with Palm, Republic of [REDACTED] Civil Actions Medal Unit Citation, First Class Color with Palm.

That Petitioner be issued the aforementioned awards.

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That no further changes be made to Petitioner's record.

That a copy of this report of proceedings be filed in Petitioner's naval record.

4. It is certified that a quorum was present at the Board's review and deliberations, and that the foregoing is a true and complete record of the Board's proceedings in the above-entitled matter.

5. Pursuant to the delegation of authority set out in Section 6(e) of the revised Procedures of the Board for Correction of Naval Records (32 Code of Federal Regulation, Section 723.6(e)) and having assured compliance with its provisions, it is hereby announced that the foregoing corrective action, taken under the authority of reference (a), has been approved by the Board on behalf of the Secretary of the Navy.

5/20/2025

