



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

■  
Docket No. 12276-24  
Ref: Signature Date

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

Subj: REVIEW OF NAVAL RECORD OF FORMER MEMBER ■■■■■■■■■■, USN,  
XXX-XX-■■■■■

Ref: (a) 10 U.S.C. §1552

Encl: (1) DD Form 149 with attachments  
(2) Case Summary  
(3) Advisory Opinion

1. Pursuant to the provisions of reference (a), Petitioner filed enclosure (1) with the Board for Correction of Naval Records (Board) requesting that his record be corrected to reflect Korean Defense Service Medal (KDSM) and Southwest Asia Service Medal (SWASM). Enclosures (1) through (3) apply.

2. The Board, consisting of ■■■■■■■■■■, ■■■■■■■■■■, and ■■■■■■■■■■, reviewed Petitioner's allegations of error on 21 May 2025 and, pursuant to its regulations, determined that the corrective action indicated below should be taken on the available evidence of record. Documentary material considered by the Board consisted of the enclosures, relevant portions of Petitioner's naval service records, and applicable statutes, regulations, and policies. In addition, the Board considered enclosure (3); an advisory opinion (AO) from Navy Department Board of Decorations and Medals (NDBDM). Although Petitioner was provided an opportunity to respond to the AO, he chose not to do so.

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

b. Petitioner enlisted in the Navy and began a period of active duty on 9 May 1978. On 28 February 1999, Petitioner was honorably separated from active duty after completion of sufficient service for retirement.

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XXX-XX-[REDACTED]

c. Petitioner contends that during the period from December 1989 to September 1990, while attached to [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], he was deployed to the Republic of the [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] for Team Spirit 90 and further Combat Training, Mountain Warfare Training and other duties assigned. He also contends that he qualifies for the SWASM based on pre-deployment work-ups in [REDACTED].

d. As part of the Board's review, NDBDM provided the Board with enclosure (3). The AO stated in pertinent part:

After thorough review of the available evidence and the pertinent regulations and past practices, we determined the Petitioner is entitled to the KDSM but is not entitled to the SWASM.

Per ref (b), Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps (HQMC) determined the Petitioner did qualify for the KDSM while serving with Marine Corps units in Korea from 1 Dec 1989 to 1 Jun 1990, and therefore granted relief by issuing the Petitioner the KDSM.

From 2 to 7 Aug 1990, the Petitioner was assigned to Marine Corps units in [REDACTED], which is clearly outside the SWASM geographic limits. He then transferred to [REDACTED], [REDACTED], again outside the SWASM geo-limits. We could find no evidence the Petitioner participated in any of the approved SWASM campaigns or that he served with any unit within the SWASM geographical eligibility boundaries between 2 Aug 1990 and 30 Nov 1995.

#### CONCLUSION:

Upon review and consideration of all the evidence of record, the Board concludes Petitioner's request warrants partial relief.

The Board carefully reviewed Petitioner's application, weighed all potentially mitigating factors, and concluded that Petitioner was properly awarded the KDSM. Therefore, the Board determined it was in the interests of justice to correct Petitioner's DD Form 214 to properly annotate his medal.

However, the Board concurred with the AO that there was no supporting evidence that Petitioner is entitled to the SWASM. Therefore, the Board denied that aspect of his application.

#### RECOMMENDATION:

In view of the foregoing, the Board finds the existence of an injustice warranting the following corrective action:

That Petitioner be issued a Correction to DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 215) documenting his receipt of the following award:

- (1) Korean Defense Service Medal

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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 Regulations, 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.

6/2/2025

