



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

Docket No. 3335-25
Ref: Signature Date

Dear [REDACTED]

This is in reference to your application for correction of your naval record pursuant to Section 1552 of Title 10, United States Code. After careful and conscientious consideration of relevant portions of your naval record and your application, the Board for Correction of Naval Records (Board) found the evidence submitted insufficient to establish the existence of probable material error or injustice. Consequently, your application has been denied.

Although your application was not filed in a timely manner, the Board found it in the interest of justice to waive the statute of limitations and consider your case on its merits. A three-member panel of the Board, sitting in executive session, considered your application on 28 August 2025. The names and votes of the members of the panel will be furnished upon request. Your allegations of error and injustice were reviewed in accordance with administrative regulations and procedures applicable to the proceedings of this Board. Documentary material considered by the Board consisted of your application, together with all material submitted in support thereof, relevant portions of your naval record and applicable statutes, regulations, and policies.

On 21 October 1971, you reported to the [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]) for duty.

Chief of Naval Operations was notified that the Secretary of the Navy takes pleasure in presenting the Meritorious Unit Commendation to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] for service as set forth in the following: "For meritorious service while participating in every major U.S. Navy Fleet in the [REDACTED], [REDACTED], and [REDACTED] oceans the [REDACTED] Sea from 1 January 1973 to 24 February 1974. During this period [REDACTED] visited 22 cities in 18 different countries. The period began in the Mid-East and included operations with the [REDACTED] Navy and visits to several countries enroute to the Pacific for operations with the U. S. [REDACTED] and returned to homeport after a seven month round-the-world deployment. During this time, [REDACTED] was noted in several communications for her outstanding appearance and sharp professionalism of her Officers and crew. Further, [REDACTED] was selected for several awards, in addition to winning the Commander Cruiser Destroyer Force, [REDACTED] Fleet Antisubmarine Warfare Trophy. After excelling in local fleet operations and on short notice in November 1973, [REDACTED] sailed on extended operations to the Mediterranean and provided outstanding support to Commander [REDACTED] Fleet during the Mid-East crisis. By their courage, perseverance, and

unfailing devotion to duty throughout, the officers and men of ██████████ upheld the highest traditions of the States Naval Service.”

In accordance with SECNAVINST 1650.1H published on 22 August 2006, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal. Established by Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces Order No. 48 of 24 March 1966. The provisions of Public Law 88-257 permit acceptance of this medal to recognize service performed in ██████████ during the period 1 March 1961 to 28 March 1973, inclusive. a. Eligibility Requirements. U.S. Armed Forces personnel are eligible for the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal under one or more of the following conditions...(5) Served a cumulative six months outside the geographical limits of ██████████, but contributing direct combat support to the Republic of ██████████ Armed Forces during such period. Only those personnel who meet the criteria established for the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (Vietnam) or the Vietnam Service Medal are considered to have contributed direct combat support.

Vietnam Service Medal. Created by Executive Order 11231, July 8, 1965. “Awarded to all members of the Armed Forces of the United States, serving at any time between 4 July 1965 and 28 March 1973, in the area defined under the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (AFEM) for ██████████...(2) Personnel Eligible. Only personnel attached to ships or units, and who actually participated in the given operation, are eligible for the VSM. This includes personnel attached to a squadron or unit embarked on a ship during the period for which that ship is eligible. Members of rear echelons, transients, observers, and personnel assigned for short periods or TAD and training duty are normally not eligible for the award...(3) Eligible Ships and Units. Ships and units present in the area merely for training purposes are not eligible for the award...”

You were released from active duty and transferred to the U.S. Naval Reserve with an Honorable character of service and were issued a Report of separation from active duty Bureau of Naval Personnel (DD Form 214N) for the period of 29 July 1971 to 18 July 1975 release from active duty within 3 months of expiration of USN contract and concurrent transfer to Naval Reserve. Furthermore, block 11 (Last duty assignment and major command) listed ██████████ 11, block 18f (Foreign and/or sea service this period) listed 3 years, 18 months, and 22 days, block 26 (Decorations, medals, badges, commendations, citations and campaign ribbons awarded or authorized) listed the National Defense Service Medal and Meritorious Unit Commendation, and block 27 (Remarks) 1200 PSI Steam Plant Maint 7 weeks, Boilerman A school 9 weeks, and Boilerman C school 3 weeks.

On 28 July 1977, you were honorably discharged from the U.S. Naval Reserve.

You requested for your DD Form 214 to indicate serving in ██████████ war zone, the Board, in its review of your entire record and application, carefully weighed all potentially mitigating factors, to include your assertions. You assert that you served on ██████████ (██████████) from 1971 to 1975 and deployed on round the world cruise and sailed through ██████████ waters. However, the Board concluded that although there is evidence in your record that you deployed aboard the ██████████ (██████████) during the ██████████ War, there is no evidence in your record that you “sailed through ██████████ waters” or participated in any operations which would qualify you to be awarded the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal or the Vietnam Service Medal. The Board

noted that the Secretary of the Navy presented the Meritorious Unit Commendation to USS [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]) “[f]or meritorious service while participating in every major U.S. Navy Fleet in the [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] oceans the Mediterranean Sea from 1 January 1973 to 24 February 1974.” However, this citation does not reference service in [REDACTED] or its waters. Therefore, the Board determined that there is insufficient evidence of error or injustice to warrant a change to your record.

You are entitled to have the Board reconsider its decision upon submission of new matters, which will require you to complete and submit a new DD Form 149. New matters are those not previously presented to or considered by the Board. In this regard, it is important to keep in mind that a presumption of regularity attaches to all official records. Consequently, when applying for a correction of an official naval record, the burden is on the applicant to demonstrate the existence of probable material error or injustice.

Sincerely,

9/1/2025

[REDACTED]