



[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[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 application on its merits. A three-member panel of the Board, sitting in executive session, considered your application on 23 January 2026. The names and votes of the panel members 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 the 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. The Board also considered an advisory opinion (AO) furnished by the Navy Department Board of Decorations and Medals (NDBDM). Although you were provided an opportunity to respond to the AO, you chose not to do so.

1. You enlisted in the Navy and began active duty on 4 August 1953. You reported to the U.S. Naval Communication Facility, [REDACTED] on 30 July 1954. You were on temporarily assigned duty with Commander, Carrier Division THREE for 180 days beginning on 2 April 1955.

2. On 16 August 1956, you were released from active duty and transferred to the Navy Reserves. Your Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214) from this time indicates that you were awarded the National Defense Service Medal and Good Conduct Medal. You were discharged from the Navy Reserves on 26 October 1960.

After careful review, the Board reached the following conclusions and denied your application for relief.

You expressed your desire to be awarded the China Service Medal (CSM), Korean Service Medal (KSM), Korea Defense Service Medal (KDSM), Navy and Marine Corps Overseas Service Ribbon (OSR), United Nations Service Medal Korea (UNSMK), Navy Rifle Marksmanship Ribbon, American Defense Commemorative Ribbon, Combat Service Commemorative Ribbon, Overseas Service Commemorative Ribbon (OSR), Armed Forces Expert Marksman Commemorative Ribbon, UN Military Service Commemorative Ribbon, and 50th Anniversary Korean Commemorative Ribbon. You contend that: (1) upon your discharge you were asked which medals you had coming and were so surprised you answered National Defense and Good Conduct, because they were the most important, and (2) you expected that you would receive the ones you had earned.

As part of the Board's review, the Board considered the AO provided by NDBDM. The AO stated in pertinent part:

The Petitioner's claim is without merit.

None of the six requested commemorative ribbons are officially sanctioned by the Department of Defense (DOD) or Department of the Navy (DON) and appear to be commercially established. The commemorative ribbons are not authorized for wear and not proffered by the DON.

Based on the Petitioner's Official Military Personnel File (OMPF), there is no evidence the Petitioner was deployed to China or Korea. The Petitioner did not submit any evidence that he was temporarily attached to a ship that deployed to the territorial or contiguous waters of China or Korea. Therefore, the Petitioner does not merit the CSM, KSM, KDSM, or UNSMK.

The OSR is only authorized for service on or after 15 Aug 1974. Therefore, the Petitioner does not qualify for the OSR.

The Navy Rifle Marksmanship Ribbon was established on 17 Dec 1968, after the Petitioner was discharged from Active Duty. Ref (h) contains the Expert Rifleman Medal and Distinguished Marksman Badge criteria in effect during the Petitioner's period of service. There is no evidence in Petitioner's OMPF that he qualified for either the Expert Rifleman Medal or the Distinguished Marksman Badge. Therefore, the Petitioner does not merit the Navy Rifle Marksmanship Ribbon, Expert Rifleman Medal, or Distinguished Marksman Badge.

We are required to presume the official records are both complete and accurate, and that those in the chain of command at the time exercised due diligence in faithfully discharging their official duties. We must also presume that if he had qualified for various campaign, expeditionary, and service medals, his commander would have taken the appropriate steps to ensure he received it and be appropriately

documented in his service record. The Petitioner failed to present evidence sufficient to overcome the presumption.

The foregoing is an objective assessment of the evidence available vis a vis the applicable regulations and standards. Nothing in the foregoing is intended to diminish the value of the Petitioner's military service to the Nation. Based on our review, he is entitled only to the medals listed on his DD214: National Defense Service Medal and Good Conduct Medal.

The AO concluded, "Petitioner **is not entitled** to any of the military awards claimed in his petition. We found no evidence of material error or injustice and therefore recommend BCNR deny relief. Were BCNR to grant relief in this case, such action would be inconsistent with the criteria and standards applied to all other Service Members." (Emphasis in original)

After a detailed review of your record, the Board concurred with the AO that your record does not provide the necessary evidence to substantiate your request. Accordingly, given the totality of the circumstances, the Board determined that your request does not merit relief.

The Board appreciates your faithful and Honorable service to this country. The Board also agreed with the sentiment expressed in the AO that nothing in the foregoing is intended to diminish the value of your military service.

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,

2/18/2026

