



Docket No. 11761-25
Ref: Signature Date

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

Subj: REVIEW OF NAVAL RECORD OF
USN, [REDACTED]

Ref: (a) 10 U.S.C. § 1552
(b) SECNAV M-1650.1

Encl: (1) DD Form 149 w/ enclosures
(2) Advisory Opinion (AO) of 2 Mar 26

1. Pursuant to the provisions of reference (a), Subject, hereinafter referred to as Petitioner, filed enclosure (1) with the Board for Correction of Naval Records (Board) requesting that his discharge be corrected to reflect his eligibility for award of the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (AFEM). Enclosures (1) and (2) apply.

2. The Board, consisting of [REDACTED], reviewed Petitioner's allegations of error and injustice on 20 March 2026 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). Additionally, the Board considered the advisory opinion (AO), furnished by Navy Department Board of Decorations and Medals (NDBDM), which was considered favorable to Petitioner's contentions.

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 Petitioner's 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 the case on its merits.

b. Petitioner enlisted in the Navy and began a period of active duty on 7 October 1958. He was assigned to [REDACTED] in November 1961, and received a Navy Unit Commendation (NUC) award for aerial reconnaissance in connection to the Cuban Missile Crisis for the period from 15 October 1962 through 26 November 1962.

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c. At the time of his discharge on 5 September 1963, block 26 of his discharge record identified his authorized decorations, medals, badges, commendations, citations and campaign ribbons awarded to include only NUC and the first award of the Good Conduct Award.

d. Petitioner contends that his service with VFP-62, from October 1962 through June 1963, included service during the Cuban Missile Crisis which qualified for the AFEM.

e. The AO concluded that Petitioner is entitled to the AFEM. Specifically, the AO noted that Petitioner was assigned to [REDACTED] during the period that the squadron provided direct support to operations in [REDACTED] from 24 October 1962 through 1 June 1963, rendering him eligible for the award.

CONCLUSION:

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

The Board noted that Petitioner served with [REDACTED] 2 during the period it supported operations in Cuba at the time of the Cuban Missile Crisis and concurred with the AO regarding his eligibility for the AFEM. In making this finding, the Board considered that Petitioner's official military personnel file (OMPF) includes a citation for the NUC for [REDACTED]'s support of those same operations. Based on the omission of the AFEM from Petitioner's record, the Board determined that an error exists which requires correction.

In view of the foregoing, the Board finds the existence of an error warranting the following corrective action.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Petitioner be issued a "Correction to DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty" (DD Form 215), for the period ending 5 September 1963, to reflect the following comment added to the Block 26 "Decorations, Medals, Badges, Commendations, Citations and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized" section:

"Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal"

That Petitioner be issued the AFEM.

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

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.

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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.

4/8/2026

