



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVAL INSPECTOR GENERAL
1014 N STREET SE SUITE 100
WASHINGTON NAVY YARD DC 20374-5006

IN REPLY REFER TO

INFO MEMO

17 September 2004

FOR: SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

FROM: VADM R. A. Route, Naval Inspector General

SUBJECT: Judicial Watch Request for Investigation

- In accordance with NAVINSGEN's established review procedures, we carefully examined the Judicial Watch request contained in letters of 18 August and 8 September 2004 and conducted a review of Senator Kerry's awards.
- Our examination found that existing documentation regarding the Silver Star, Bronze Star, and Purple Heart medals indicates the awards approval process was properly followed. In particular, the senior officers who awarded the medals were properly delegated authority to do so. In addition, we found that they correctly followed the procedures in place at the time for approving these awards.
- Conducting any additional review regarding events that took place over thirty years ago would not be productive. The passage of time would make reconstruction of the facts and circumstances unreliable, and would not allow the information gathered to be considered in the context of the time in which the events took place.
- Our review also considered the fact that Senator Kerry's post-active duty activities were public and that military and civilian officials were aware of his actions at the time. For these reasons, I have determined that Senator Kerry's awards were properly approved and will take no further action in this matter.
- In accordance with our normal procedures when dealing with a known complainant, I intend to notify Judicial Watch of the reasons for our decision, Attachment 1.

RECOMMENDATION: None - for information only.

Attachments:
As statedCopy to:
IG, DoD