



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVAL INSPECTOR GENERAL
1014 N STREET SE SUITE 100
WASHINGTON NAVY YARD DC 20374-3006

IN REPLY REFER TO:

2040700
Ser N5/1348
17 SEP 2004

Mr. Thomas Fitton
President, Judicial Watch
Suite 725
501 School Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20024

Dear Mr. Fitton:

This responds to your letters of August 18 and September 8, 2004, requesting an investigation into Senator Kerry's military awards. By separate correspondence, the Inspector General, Department of Defense, who is also an addressee on your letters, referred your request to me for "information and action as appropriate."

In accordance with our established review procedures, we carefully examined the process by which Senator Kerry was awarded the Silver Star, Bronze Star, and three Purple Hearts in 1968 and 1969. We found that existing documentation regarding his medals indicates the awards approval process was properly followed. In particular, the senior officers who authorized 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.

Thank you for bringing your concerns to my attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "R. A. Route".

R. A. ROUTE