

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 10 January 2024

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20230005726

APPLICANT REQUESTS:

- in effect, award of the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal
- correction of his DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) to show his deployment in support of Operation Golden Pheasant

APPLICANT'S SUPPORTING DOCUMENT(S) CONSIDERED BY THE BOARD:

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record), 17 March 2023
- DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty)
- Excerpt, Operation Golden Pheasant
- Excerpt, 7th Infantry Division Association
- Excerpt, Central America War

FACTS:

1. The applicant did not file within the 3-year time frame provided in Title 10, U.S. Code, section 1552(b); however, the Army Board for Correction of Military Records (ABCMR) conducted a substantive review of this case and determined it is in the interest of justice to excuse the applicant's failure to timely file.
2. The applicant states the Expeditionary Medal, and his deployment should be added to his DD Form 214. He deployed in combat conditions and trained Soldiers. His leadership did not say that it was training. A low intensity conflict is still a conflict; people were wounded and died. They deployed as a Quick Reaction Force. During Operation Golden Pheasant, and his unit was the first on the ground,
3. On 29 January 1985, the applicant enlisted in the Regular Army. He completed training and he was awarded military occupational specialty 11B (Infantryman).
4. His DA Form 2-1 (Personnel Qualification Record) shows in:
 - a. item 5 (Oversea Service) – “no entries”.

b. item 9 (Awards, Decorations and Campaigns) –

- Sharpshooter Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-16)
- Expert Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Hand Grenade Bar
- Army Service Ribbon
- Army Good Conduct Medal
- Army Lapel Button

c. item 35 (Record of Assignments) – he was assigned to C Company, 5th Battalion, 21st Infantry, 7th Infantry Division, from 3 June 1985 to 4 May 1988, in Fort Ord, CA.

5. The applicant provides several excerpts that show the following:

a. An article titled “Operation Golden Pheasant,” which shows in part, it was an emergency deployment of U.S. troops to Honduras in 1988, as a result of threatening actions by the forces of the Nicaraguans. The U.S. dispatched elements of the 7th Infantry Division (Light) QRF on a no notice deployment. The units from the 7th Infantry Division were on the ground several days when the 82nd Airborne elements arrived. The deployment evolved into a live-fire training exercise, but the light infantry Soldiers and paratroopers deployed ready to fight.

b. An article titled “7th Army Infantry Division Association,” A Chronological History of the 7th Infantry Division which shows, in part –

- 1 October 1985, Fort Ord, CA, redesignated 7th Infantry Division (Light)
- April 1987 to November 1987, Sinai Egypt, Multinational Force and Observers (5-21)
- 16 March 1988, Honduras, Operation Golden Pheasant

c. An article titled “Central America War,” which shows in part, US Contra War is advocating for conflict recognition in the form of an Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, or Central America Campaign Medal and the National Defense Service Medal by the U.S. government for service during the decade that ended communist advances into the Western Hemisphere allowing democracy to flourish in Central America.

6. On 5 May 1988, he was honorably released from active duty. His DD Form 214 for this period shows he completed 3 years, 3 months and 7 days of net service, his DD Form 214 shows the following:

a. 12f (Foreign Service) – no entries.

b. item 13 (Decorations, Medals, Badges, Citations and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized) -

- Army Service Ribbon
- Army Lapel Button
- Army Good Conduct Medal
- Sharpshooter Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar
- Expert Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Grenade Bar
- Multinational Force and Observer Ribbon [awarded to personnel serving 6 months with the Multinational Force and Observers]

c. item 18 (Remarks) – no remarks on deployments

BOARD DISCUSSION:

1. After reviewing the application, all supporting documents, and the evidence found within the military record, the Board found that relief was not warranted. The Board carefully considered the applicant's record of service, documents submitted in support of the petition and executed a comprehensive and standard review based on law, policy and regulation. Upon review of the applicant's petition and available military records, the Board determined there is insufficient evidence to support the applicant met the 30- or 60-day threshold criteria for award of the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal nor correction of his DD Form 214 to show his deployment in support of Operation Golden Pheasant. The Board noted that operation golden pheasant commenced on 18 March 1988 and evidence show the applicant separated from the Army 5 May 1988. The Board determined there is no evidence the applicant was there 30 days, nor evidence this operation qualifies for the AFEM. Furthermore, the applicant's DD Form 214 does not show overseas tours.

2. The Board determined in accordance with regulatory guidance which states an individual, who was not engaged in actual combat or equally hazardous activity, must have been a bona fide member of a unit participating in, or be engaged in the direct support of, the operation for 30 consecutive or 60 nonconsecutive days provided this support involved entering the area of operations. Operation Golden Pheasant is not listed in any category of operations. Based on regulatory guidance and the absence of sufficient evidence for award of the AFEM and foreign service credit, the Board denied relief.

BOARD VOTE:

<u>Mbr 1</u>	<u>Mbr 2</u>	<u>Mbr 3</u>	
:	:	:	GRANT FULL RELIEF
:	:	:	GRANT PARTIAL RELIEF
:	:	:	GRANT FORMAL HEARING
█	█	█	DENY APPLICATION

BOARD DETERMINATION/RECOMMENDATION:

The evidence presented does not demonstrate the existence of a probable error or injustice. Therefore, the Board determined the overall merits of this case are insufficient as a basis for correction of the records of the individual concerned.

2/18/2024

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CHAIRPERSON

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I certify that herein is recorded the true and complete record of the proceedings of the Army Board for Correction of Military Records in this case.

REFERENCES:

1. Title 10, U.S. Code, section 1552(b), provides that applications for correction of military records must be filed within 3 years after discovery of the alleged error or injustice. This provision of law also allows the ABCMR to excuse an applicant's failure to timely file within the 3-year statute of limitations if the ABCMR determines it would be in the interest of justice to do so.
2. Army Regulation (AR) 600-8-22 (Military Awards), prescribes Army policy, criteria, and administrative instructions concerning individual and unit military awards.
 - a. The Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal is authorized for qualifying service after 1 July 1958 in military operations within specific geographic areas during specified time

periods. An individual, who was not engaged in actual combat or equally hazardous activity, must have been a bona fide member of a unit participating in, or be engaged in the direct support of, the operation for 30 consecutive or 60 nonconsecutive days provided this support involved entering the area of operations. Operation Golden Pheasant is not listed in any category of operations.

b. The Multinational Force and Observers Medal is authorized for qualifying service of at least 90 days cumulative after 3 August 1981. Effective 15 March 1985, personnel must serve 6 months (170 days minimum) with the Multinational Force and Observers to qualify for the award. Periods of service on behalf of the Multinational Force and Observers outside of the Sinai and periods of leave while a member is serving with the Multinational Force and Observers may be counted toward eligibility for the Multinational Force and Observers Medal.

3. AR 635-5 (Separation Documents) states the DD Form 214 is a summary of the Soldier's most recent period of continuous active duty. The specific instructions for:

- item 12f, enter the total amount of service performed outside the continental United States during the period covered by the DD Form 214
- item 13, List all federally recognized awards and decorations for all periods of service
- item 18, for active-duty Soldiers deployed with their unit during their continuous period of active service, enter "SERVICE IN (NAME OF COUNTRY DEPLOYED) FROM (inclusive date)"

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//