

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 1 December 2023

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20230005945

APPLICANT REQUESTS: in effect, correction of his DD Form 214, Armed Forces of the United States-Report of Transfer or Discharge, to show the Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon (NCOPDR).

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

- DD Form 149, Application for Correction of Military Record
- DD Form 214, 12 April 1970
- Memorandum, Authorization for wear, NCOPDR/Vietnam
- NCO Candidate Locator printout

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, in effect, he is authorized the NCOPDR (Vietnam). He completed the first 11C (Infantry Indirect Fire Crewman) military occupational specialty course at Fort Benning, GA on 6 February 1969.
3. The applicant's military records are not available for review. He provides his DD Form 214 and supporting documents, which are sufficient for the Board to conduct an impartial review.
4. The applicant was inducted into the Army of the United States on 13 May 1968. He served in the Republic of Vietnam from 8 May 1968 to 11 April 1970.
5. On 12 April 1970, the applicant was honorably released from active duty. His DD Form 214 further shows in:
 - Item 5a, Grade, Rate or Rank – Sergeant (SGT)
 - Item 5b, Pay Grade – “E5”

- Item 23a, Specialty Number & Title – 11C4O Infantry
- Item 25, Education and Training completed – “None” and “WODLO3-L”

6. The applicant also provides:

a. An Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1 memorandum, Subject: Authorization for wear, NCOPDR (Vietnam). This memorandum states U.S. Army Soldiers that attended the U.S. Army’s training program, NCO Candidate Course (NCOCC) during 1967-1972 are approved to wear the NCOPDR. Army Regulation (AR) 600-8-22, Military Awards, paragraph 5-6c states “Acceptable evidence of graduation is a diploma, certificate, or a letter signed by an appropriate service school official. Graduates of NCO Academy courses conducted prior to 1976 for the Regular Army, and 1980 for Reserve Components (RC), will be given credit for the primary level only.” This memorandum, in conjunction with proof of attendance and graduation from NCOCC, serves as authorization for the ribbon.

b. A printout from the website NCOC Locator which shows the applicant graduated from the 11C4O Infantry Indirect Fire Crewman class 3-69 C on 6 February 1969.

7. Acceptable evidence of graduation from NCOCC is a diploma, certificate, or letter signed by an appropriate service school official. Graduates of NCO Academy courses conducted prior to 1976 for the RA, and 1980 for Reserve Components, will be given credit for the primary level only.

BOARD DISCUSSION:

After reviewing the application, all supporting documents, and the evidence found within the military record, the Board found that relief was warranted. The Board carefully considered the applicant’s contentions, the military record, period of service and applicable regulatory guidance. Based on the documentation available for review, the Board determined the applicant had successfully completed the Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Course on 6 February 1969 and, thereby, authorized the ribbon.

BOARD VOTE:

Mbr 1 Mbr 2 Mbr 3

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:	:	:	GRANT PARTIAL RELIEF
:	:	:	GRANT FORMAL HEARING
:	:	:	DENY APPLICATION

BOARD DETERMINATION/RECOMMENDATION:

The Board determined the evidence presented is sufficient to warrant a recommendation for relief. As a result, the Board recommends that all Department of the Army records of the individual concerned be corrected by amending his DD214 for the period ending 12 April 1970 to show in:

- block 24 (Decorations, Medals, Badges, Commendations and Campaign Ribbons Awarded to Authorized: Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Course Ribbon
- block 25 (Education and Training Completed): Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Course

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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, 5 March 2019, states:

a. The NCOPDR was established by the Secretary of the Army on 10 April 1981 and is awarded to Regular Army (RA), Army National Guard (ARNG), and U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers (USAR) for successful completion of designated NCO professional development courses.

b. Acceptable evidence of graduation is a diploma, certificate, or letter signed by an appropriate service school official. Graduates of NCO Academy courses conducted prior to 1976 for the RA, and 1980 for Reserve Components, will be given credit for the primary level only.

c. Effective 1 August 1981, all RA, ARNG, and USAR Soldiers in an active status are eligible for this award for satisfactory completion of the respective NCO Education System courses. The NCOPDR consists of the basic ribbon with numeral devices of 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6, which signify satisfactory completion of the respective levels of NCO professional development courses.

3. AR 15-185, Army Board for Correction of Military Records, prescribes the policies and procedures for correction of military records by the Secretary of the Army acting through the ABCMR. The ABCMR begins its consideration of each case with the presumption of administrative regularity. The ABCMR will decide cases on the evidence of record. It is not an investigative body. The applicant has the burden of proving an error or injustice by a preponderance of the evidence.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//