

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 11 January 2024

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20230005966

APPLICANT REQUESTS: correction of his DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) by adding the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal.

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

DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)

FACTS:

1. The applicant did not file within the 3-year time frame provided in Title 10 (Armed Forces), United States Code (USC), section 1552 (b) (Correction of Military Records: Claims Incident Thereto). 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, from 16 March to 18 September 1987, he was in Honduras as part of a military operation that was supporting El Salvador (Operation Quality Dragon). According to Army Regulation (AR) 600-8-22 (Military Awards), dated 25 June 2015, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal is authorized for Soldiers who supported El Salvador between the dates 1 January 1981 to 1 February 1992.
3. A review of the applicant's service records reveals the following:
  - a. On 23 March 1983, after completing prior Regular Army and U.S. Army Reserve service, the applicant reenlisted into the Regular Army for 3 years and 19 days. Upon completion of initial entry training and the award of military occupational specialty 98J (Non-Communications Interceptor/Analyst), and following a 3-year tour in Germany, orders assigned the applicant to a military intelligence battalion at Hunter Army Airfield, GA. The applicant arrived at his new duty station, on 8 January 1987.
  - b. On 16 March 1987, temporary duty orders (TDY) transferred the applicant to Honduras; on 11 September 1987, the applicant returned to Hunter Army Airfield. Through subsequent extensions and immediate reenlistments, the applicant continued

his service until, on 31 January 1997, the Army honorably retired him, based on the completion of sufficient service. His DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) shows he completed 13 years, 10 months, and 8 days of net active duty service, with 6 years, 4 months, and 1 day of prior active duty. The report additionally reflects the following:

(1) Item 13 (Decorations, Medals, Badges, Citations, and Campaign Medals Awarded or Authorized):

- Army Achievement Medal (2nd Award)
- Defense Meritorious Service Medal
- Meritorious Service Medal
- Joint Service Commendation Medal
- Army Commendation Medal (5th Award)
- Army Superior Unit Award
- Army Good Conduct Medal (5th Award)
- Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal
- National Defense Service Medal with two bronze service stars
- Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon with Numeral "3"
- Army Service Ribbon
- Overseas Service Ribbon with Numeral "3"

(2) Item 18 (Remarks) does not show the applicant served in Honduras in support of El Salvador and/or as part of Operation Quality Dragon.

4. AR 600-8-22 (Military Awards), currently in effect, prescribes policies and procedures for military awards and decorations.

a. Service members of the United States Armed Forces may receive the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal when they:

- "Participate, or have participated, as members of the U.S. military units in a U.S. military operation in which Servicemembers of any military department participate, in the opinion of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in significant numbers"
- "Encounter during such participation foreign-armed opposition, or are otherwise placed, or have been placed, in such position that, in the opinion of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, hostile action by foreign armed forces were imminent even though it did not materialize"

b. Three categories of operations qualify for this award, and the authorized operations are listed respectively in three tables:

(1) Table 2-3 (Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal) – U.S. military operations, such as Panama Operation JUST CAUSE.

(2) Table 2-4 (Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal – Designated U.S. Operations in Direct Support of the United Nations). For example, Operation JOINT GUARD, from 20 December 1996 to 20 June 1998.

(3) Table 2-5 (Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal – Designated U.S. Military Operations of Assistance for a Friendly Foreign Nation). This category includes El Salvador, from 1 January 1981 to 1 February 1992; however, Operation Quality Dragon is not specifically identified.

c. Eligible service members must have been bona fide members of a unit participating in or be engaged in the direct support of the operation for 30 consecutive days in the area of operation; the regulation further stipulates the support had to have involved entering the area of operations and/or to have completed one of the following requirements; the service member was:

- Engaged in actual combat or duty that was equally as hazardous as combat duty during an operation with an armed opposition
- Wounded or injured and required medical evacuation
- Accumulated the required number of days' service while participating as a regularly assigned air crewmember of an aircraft flying sorties into, out of, or over the area in direct support of military operations

#### BOARD DISCUSSION:

1. After reviewing the application, all supporting documents, and the evidence found within the military record, the Board found relief is not warranted.

2. While the record shows the applicant performed duty in Honduras for several months in 1987, the Board noted that AR 600-8-22 does not include Honduras in the area of eligibility for the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal during the period in question. The regulation does list El Salvador as a area of eligibility, but the record does not indicate the applicant served in El Salvador. Based on a preponderance of the evidence, the Board determined the applicant is not authorized the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal.

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.

█

█

---

█

█

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, USC, 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. AR 600-8-22 (Military Awards), currently in effect, prescribes policies and procedures for military awards and decorations.
  - a. Service members of the United States Armed Forces may receive the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal when they:

- "Participate, or have participated, as members of the U.S. military units in a U.S. military operation in which Servicemembers of any military department participate, in the opinion of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in significant numbers"
- "Encounter during such participation foreign-armed opposition, or are otherwise placed, or have been placed, in such position that, in the opinion of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, hostile action by foreign armed forces were imminent even though it did not materialize"

b. Three categories of operations qualify for this award, and the authorized operations are listed respectively in three tables:

(1) Table 2-3 (Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal) – U.S. military operations, such Panama Operation JUST CAUSE.

(2) Table 2-4 (Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal – Designated U.S. Operations in Direct Support of the United Nations). For example, Operation JOINT GUARD, from 20 December 1996 to 20 June 1998.

(3) Table 2-5 (Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal – Designated U.S. Military Operations of Assistance for a Friendly Foreign Nation). Includes El Salvador, from 1 January 1981 to 1 February 1992; however, Operation Quality Dragon is not specifically identified.

c. Eligible service members must have been bona fide members of a unit participating in or be engaged in the direct support of the operation for 30 consecutive days in the area of operation; the regulation further stipulates the support had to have involved entering the area of operations and/or to have completed one of the following requirements; the service member was:

- Engaged in actual combat or duty that was equally as hazardous as combat duty during an operation with an armed opposition
- Wounded or injured and required medical evacuation
- Accumulated the required number of days' service while participating as a regularly assigned air crewmember of an aircraft flying sorties into, out of, or over the area in direct support of military operations

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//