

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 10 January 2024

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20230006470

APPLICANT REQUESTS: Correction of his DD Form 214 (Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge) to show any unit awards or decoration he is entitled to, specifically three Presidential Unit Citations (PUC).

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- DD Form 214

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 that he would like to have his records corrected to show any unit awards to which he is entitled but were not included on his DD Form 214, specifically he indicates authorization of three PUCs. He states he served in Vietnam with the 5th Special Forces, Special Operations Group.
3. The applicant enlisted in the Regular Army for 3 years on 28 March 1966 and completed training with award of the military occupational specialty 91B4S (Medical Specialist - Special Forces). The highest grade he held was E-4.
4. The applicant's available record does not contain copies of any orders for any on his awards or decorations.
5. The applicant's DA Form 20 (Enlisted Qualification Record) provides the following information related to his service in Vietnam at:
  - a. Item 31 (Foreign Service ), service in Vietnam from 16 December 1967 to 13 December 1968.

b. Item 38 (Record of Assignments), service with the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), 1st Special Forces - Vietnam from 21 December 1967 to 12 December 1968, with three duty attachments listed as the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Special Operations Augmentation Team, and Company B.

c. Item 38, his conduct and efficiency ratings are all listed as excellent.

d. Item 39 (Campaigns), service during two campaign periods.

e. Item 40 (Wounds), as shrapnel wound in left shoulder on 7 February 1968.

f. Item 41 (Awards and Decorations), award as the:

- Purple Heart
- National Defense Service Medal
- Vietnam Service Medal
- Combat Medical Badge (First Award)
- Meritorious Unit Citation
- Parachutist Badge
- "Vietnam" Parachute Badge (listed twice)

6. The applicant's DD Form 214 shows he was honorably released from active duty under Army Regulation (Personnel Separations – Enlisted Personnel), Chapter 5, as an overseas returnee, and was transferred to the U. S. Army Reserve on 14 December 1968. His awards are listed as:

- National Defense Service Medal
- Army Good Conduct Medal
- Expert Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (MM-16)
- Markman Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Mortar Bar (81 mm)
- Purple Heart
- Combat Medical Badge
- Parachutist Badge
- "Vietnam Parachute Wings"
- Vietnam Service Medal
- Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960)

7. The applicant had previously requested correction of his record (AR20180007002) to show award of three Presidential Unit Citations. His request was administratively closed and he was referred to Awards and Decorations Branch, Army Human Resources Command.

8. On 28 February 2000, a DA Form 1577 was issued showing his authorized awards as Purple Heart, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with two bronze service stars, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Ribbon with Device (1960), Combat Medical Badge, Parachutist Badge, Expert Qualification Badge with Automatic Rifle Bar, and the Marksman Qualification Badge with Pistol and Mortar bars.

9. A review of the DA Pamphlet 672-6 (Unit Citation and Campaign Participation Credit Register Vietnam Conflict) lists the unit citations and commendations and the authorizing Department of the Army General Order (DAGO). This pamphlet shows the unit to which the applicant was assigned, the 5th Special Forces Group and its subordinate units was cited in orders as follows:

- DAGO 45, 16 July 1968, the Presidential Unit Citation
- DAGO 48, 4 August 1969, the Republic of Vietnam Civil Actions Unit Citation
- DAGO 59, 25 September 1969, the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation
- DAGO 70, 13 November 1969, the Meritorious Unit Commendation

10. A review of the U.S. Army Center of Military History - Vietnam War Campaigns site shows the following campaigns during the applicant's period of service in Vietnam as the:

- Counteroffensive, Phase III – 1 June 1967 - 29 January 1968
- Tet Counteroffensive – 30 January 1968- 1 April 1968
- Counteroffensive, Phase IV – 2 April 1968 - 30 June 1968
- Counteroffensive, Phase V – 1 July 1968- 1 November 1968
- Counteroffensive, Phase VI – 2 November 1968 - 22 February 1969

#### BOARD DISCUSSION:

1. 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 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 sufficient evidence to show the applicant's unit was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation (DAGO 45, 16 July 1968). Evidence shows the applicant was assigned to the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), 1st Special Forces - Vietnam from 21 December 1967 to 12 December 1968. Based on this, the Board granted relief to award the applicant the Presidential Unit Citation.

2. Prior to closing the case, the Board did note the analyst of record administrative notes below, and recommended the correction is completed to more accurately depict the military service of the applicant.

BOARD VOTE:

Mbr 1      Mbr 2      Mbr 3

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

BOARD DETERMINATION/RECOMMENDATION:

In addition to the administrative notes annotated by the Analyst of Record (below the signature), 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 DD Form 214 for the period ending 14 December 1968, awarding him the Presidential Unit Citation.

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.

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE(S):

A review of the applicant's record shows his DD Form 214, for the period ending 14 December 1968 is missing entries that do not require Board action. As a result, amend the DD Form 214 by adding the following entries to

a. Item 24 (Decoration, Medals, Badges, Citations, and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized):

- Meritorious Unit Commendation
- Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation
- Republic of Vietnam Civil Actions Unit Citation
- Counteroffensive, Phase III – 1 June 1967 - 29 January 1968
- Tet Counteroffensive – 30 January 1968- 1 April 1968
- Counteroffensive, Phase IV – 2 April 1968 - 30 June 1968
- Counteroffensive, Phase V – 1 July 1968- 1 November 1968
- Counteroffensive, Phase VI – 2 November 1968 - 22 February 1969
- adding a silver service star for wear on his Vietnam Service Medal

b. Item 30 (Remarks): "Vietnam Service: 16 December 1967 to 13 December 1968."

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 600-8-22 provides:

a. A bronze service star is worn on the appropriate service ribbon, to include the Vietnam Service Medal, for each credited campaign period. A silver service star is authorized in lieu of five bronze service stars

b. Where a single unit received duplicate unit awards during the same period of time only one award will be recorded in official military and historical records.

c. The proper names, criteria, and priority sequence for military awards shown on a DD Form 214. The proper names and order of the applicant's awards are the Purple Heart, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service

Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960), Combat Medical Badge, Parachutist Badge, Expert Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar, and the Marksman Qualification Badge with Pistol and Mortar bars. The Vietnam Parachute Badge and Vietnam Parachute Wings are not listed as authorized awards.

3. Army Regulation 635-5 (Separation Documents) states the DD Form 214 is a summary of a Soldier's most recent period of continuous active duty. It provides a brief, clear-cut record of active-duty service at the time of release from active duty, retirement, or discharge. For entries at block 28 (DECORATIONS, MEDALS, BADGES, CITATIONS AND CAMPAIGN RIBBONS AWARDED OR AUTHORIZED) to enter awards and decorations for all periods of service in the priority sequence specified in Army Regulation 600-8-2. Each entry will be verified by the Soldier's records. Abbreviations are not to be used.

4. Department of the Army Pamphlet (DA PAM) 672-3 (Unit Citation and Campaign Participation Credit Register) shows, per Department of the Army General Order (DAGO) Number 8, dated 1974, all units that served in Vietnam received the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation.

5. AR 600-8-22 states the Vietnam Service Medal is awarded to all members of the Armed Forces of the United States based on their qualifying service in Vietnam after 3 July 1965 through 28 March 1973; a bronze service star will be awarded for wear on the Vietnam Service Medal for the Soldier's participation in each recognized campaign, including:

- Counteroffensive, Phase III – 1 June 1967 - 29 January 1968
- Tet Counteroffensive – 30 January 1968- 1 April 1968
- Counteroffensive, Phase IV – 2 April 1968 - 30 June 1968
- Counteroffensive, Phase V – 1 July 1968- 1 November 1968
- Counteroffensive, Phase VI – 2 November 1968 - 22 February 1969

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//