

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 4 January 2024

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20230006778

APPLICANT REQUESTS: award of the Army Good Conduct Medal and National Defense Service Medal.

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record), 3 March 2023
- Self-authored letter, 3 March 2023
- DA Form 24 (Service Record)
- DA Form 20 (Enlisted Qualification Record)
- Memorandum, The Airborne School, 101st Airborne Divisions, Fort Campbell, KY, Subject: School Graduates, Air Delivery Course, 9 July 1962
- Memorandum, The Airborne School, 101st Airborne Divisions, Fort Campbell, KY, Subject: School Graduates, Air Transportability Course, 16 July 1962
- Memorandum, The Airborne School, 101st Airborne Divisions, Fort Campbell, KY, Subject: School Graduates, Jump Master Course, 12 February 1963
- DA Form 1307 (Individual Jump Record), 13 December 1960 - 8 February 1963
- DD Form 214 (Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge), 3 May 1963

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 he is deserving of the Army Good Conduct Medal and the National Defense Service Medal. His military record shows that he served with honor with no infractions. He served with the 101st Airborne Division from May 1960 to May 1963 during the Cuban missile crisis and the Cold War. The racial tension was prevalent, and the military was called upon many times to intervene. His time here is getting shorter, he has spoken on the behalf of veterans, and it would be a honor to wear the medal at future engagements.

3. The applicant's records contain sufficient evidence to support an additional award not shown on his DD Form 214. His DD Form 214 for the period ending 3 May 1963 will be administratively corrected without Board action to add the National Defense Service Medal.
4. On 4 May 1960, the applicant enlisted in the Regular Army.
5. The applicant provides:
 - a. Three memoranda that show completion of the following courses:
 - On 8 July 1962, Air Delivery Course
 - On 13 July 1962, Air Transportability Course
 - On 8 February 1963, Jumpmaster Course
 - b. A DA Form 1307 (Individual Jump Record) which shows the applicant's completed jumps for the period 13 December 1960 to 8 February 1963.
6. His DA Form 24 (Service Record) shows in –
 - a. Section 4 (Chronological Record of Military Service) - the applicant received all "excellent" conduct and efficiency ratings.
 - b. Section 9 (Medals, Decorations, and Citations) - he was awarded the Sharpshooter Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-1), Parachutist Badge, Expert Marksmanship Qualification Badge (Light Machine Gun), First Class Gunner (Rocket Launcher), and the Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Pistol Bar (.45 Caliber).
7. On 3 May 1963, he was honorably released from active duty. His DD Form 214 for this period shows he completed 3 years of net service, and he was awarded or authorized the:
 - Parachutist Badge
 - Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Pistol Bar
 - Sharpshooter Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar Light Machine
 - Expert Marksmanship Qualification Badge (Light Machine Gun)
 - First Class Gunner (Rocket Launcher)
8. His records are void of any disciplinary actions or a commander's disqualification for award of the Army Good Conduct Medal for the period from 4 May 1960 through 3 May 1963.

BOARD DISCUSSION:

1. After reviewing the application, all supporting documents, and the evidence found within the military record, the Board found relief is warranted.
2. The Board found the applicant met the criteria for the Army Good Conduct Medal. The Board determined he should be awarded this medal and it should be added to his DD Form 214.
3. The Board concurred with the correction described in Administrative Note(s) below.

BOARD VOTE:

Mbr 1	Mbr 2	Mbr 3	
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█	█	█	GRANT FULL RELIEF
:	:	:	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:

- Awarding him the Army Good Conduct Medal (1st Award) for the period 4 May 1960 through 3 May 1963
- Adding the Army Good Conduct Medal (1st Award) to his DD Form 214
- Making the correction described in Administrative Note(s) below

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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): administratively correct his DD Form 214 to add the National Defense Service Medal.

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 672-5-1 (Awards), in effect at the time, stated:

a. The National Defense Service Medal is awarded for honorable active service for any period between 27 July 1950 and 27 July 1954, 1 January 1961 and 14 August 1974, 2 August 1990 and 30 November 1995, and 11 September 2001 and a date to be determined. Second and subsequent awards of the National Defense Service Medal are denoted by a bronze service star affixed to the National Defense Service Medal.

b. The Army Good Conduct Medal was awarded for each 3 years of continuous enlisted active Federal military service completed on or after 27 August 1940; for first award only, 1 year served entirely during the period 7 December 1941 to 2 March 1946; and, for the first award only, upon termination of service on or after 27 June 1950 of less than 3 years but more than 1 year. The enlisted person must have had all "excellent" conduct and efficiency ratings. Ratings of "Unknown" for portions of the period under consideration were not disqualifying. Service school efficiency ratings based upon academic proficiency of at least "Good" rendered subsequent to 22 November 1955 were not disqualifying. There must have been no convictions by a court-martial. However, there was no right or entitlement to the medal until the immediate commander made a positive recommendation for its award and until the awarding authority announced the award in general orders.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//