

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 23 February 2024

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20230008752

APPLICANT REQUESTS: correction of his DD Form 214 (Report of Separation from Active Duty) to show the Parachutist Badge and Air Assault Badge.

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

- Two DD Forms 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- U.S. Army Infantry School Airborne Course Diploma, dated 3 August 1973
- DD Form 214, for the period ending 27 May 1976

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, he earned the Parachutist Badge in August 1973 but no longer has the orders confirming the award; he only has his diploma showing his successful completion of the course. Concerning the Air Assault Badge, he was unable to locate the orders for this award as well, and when he reached out to the 101st Airborne Division, they told him their records did not go back that far.

a. The applicant states he seeks this change because he earned both badges, and when he shows his DD Form 214 to his grandchildren and great grandchildren, it gives him additional "bragging rights," and offers an example for them to follow.

b. In support of his request, the applicant provides a copy of a diploma, which announces that, on 3 August 1973, the applicant successfully completed the Airborne Course at Fort Benning, GA (later renamed Fort Moore).

3. The applicant's requested relief for adding the Air Assault Badge to his DD Form 214 is supported by sufficient evidence; as a result, this portion of the requested relief

will be addressed in the "ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE" section below and will not be considered by the Board.

4. A review of the applicant's service record shows the following:

a. On 2 June 1972, the applicant enlisted into the Regular Army for 4 years. Upon completion of initial entry training and the award of military occupational specialty (MOS) 13A (Ammunition Handler), orders assigned him to a field artillery battalion in the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile), Fort Campbell, KY, and he arrived at his new unit on 27 October 1972.

b. Item 38 (Record of Assignments) from the applicant's DA Form 20 (Enlisted Qualification Record) indicates that on 31 August 1973, his unit listed his duty MOS as "13A1P" (with "P" being the special qualifications identifier (SQI) for Parachutist). The form does not reflect the applicant's attendance at the airborne course at Fort Benning; (all other sections of the applicant's DA Form 20 are unavailable for review).

c. On 22 April 1974, Headquarters, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) and Fort Campbell Special Orders (SO) awarded the applicant 13B1P (Field Artillery Crewman with Parachutist SQI) as his primary MOS.

d. On 11 October 1974, based on reassignment orders, the applicant transferred to a field artillery battalion in Germany, and he arrived at his unit on 12 October 1974. On or about 26 May 1976, the applicant completed his tour in Germany and orders reassigned him to Fort Jackson, SC for separation processing.

e. On 27 May 1976, he was honorably released from active duty and transferred to the U.S. Army Reserve. His DD Form 214 shows he completed 3 years, 11 months, and 26 days of active service. Item 26 (Decorations, Medals, Badges, Commendations, Citations and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized) lists the National Defense Service Medal and the Army Good Conduct Medal (1st Award).

f. The applicant's DA Form 2-1 (Personnel Qualification Record – Part II), item 9 (Awards, Decorations, and Campaigns) contain a pencil entry showing, "PDGE BDGE (730626)." Item 17 (Civilian Education and Military Schools) does not indicate the applicant attended and successfully completed airborne training. His available service record is void of special order awarding the Parachutist Badge.

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 applicant's contentions, the military record, and regulatory guidance were carefully considered.

2. The Board, by a preponderance of the evidence, determined the applicant’s service records and the documents provided by the applicant, including an Airborne Certificate of Completion, was sufficient to warrant the requested 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:

In addition to the correction addressed in the Administrative Noted below, the Board found 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 adding the Parachutist Badge to the applicant’s DD Form 214, for the period ending 27 May 1976.



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 NOTES:

1. Army Regulation (AR) 635-5 (Separation Documents), in effect at the time, stated the DD Form 214 was to list all decorations, service medals, campaign credits, and badges awarded or authorized.

2. Headquarters, U.S. Army Forces Command SO Number 30, dated 30 April 1974, awarded the applicant the Excellence-in-Competition Badge – Bronze – Rifle.
3. Headquarters, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) and Fort Campbell SO Number 147, dated 17 July 1974, awarded the applicant the Air Assault Badge, effective 19 July 1974.
4. Based on the foregoing, amend the applicant's DD Form 214, ending 27 May 1976, by adding the Excellence-in-Competition Badge – Bronze – Rifle and the Air Assault Badge.

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. It states there are three degrees of parachutist badges: Parachutist Badge (Basic), Senior Parachutist Badge, and Master Parachutist Badge. To be eligible for award of the Basic Parachutist Badge, an individual must have satisfactorily completed the pre-scribed proficiency tests while assigned or attached to an airborne unit or the Airborne Department of the Infantry School.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//