

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 27 March 2024

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20230009656

APPLICANT REQUESTS: correction of his DD Form 214 (Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge) to show his already awarded Army Commendation Medal.

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- Army Commendation Medal Citation with official seal
- DA Form 4980-14 (Army Commendation Medal Certificate)
- DD Form 214

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, on the same day of his Army separation, his leadership awarded him the Army Commendation Medal, but the award was never added to his DD Form 214. He is very proud to have received this award and would like it to appear on his gravestone when that time comes. He notes he always gave the Army more than what was expected, and his chain of command completely surprised him with the Army Commendation Medal; it meant more to him than any of the "Thanks for a job well done" comments he received. He now volunteers at a national cemetery, and he has come to understand the significance of listing this award on his DD Form 214.

3. A review of the applicant's service record reveals the following:

a. On 11 September 1968, the Army of the United States (AUS) inducted the applicant for a 2-year term of active duty. On 4 January 1969, after completing basic

combat training, the applicant arrived at Aberdeen Proving Ground for advanced individual training in military occupational specialty (MOS) 45B (Small Arms Repairman). However, due to his college education and experience with computers, the leadership pulled him out, assigned him to the U.S. Army Ordnance Corps and Ordnance School Data Systems Division, and awarded him MOS 74A (Computer Equipment Operator).

b. In or around July 1969, the applicant received reassignment instructions for Thailand; his leadership submitted an operational deferment request due to the applicant's contributions to the school's data processing mission; the request was subsequently approved.

c. On 10 September 1970, the AUS honorably released the applicant from active duty and transferred him to the U.S. Army Reserve. His DD Form 214 shows he completed his full 2-year term. Item 24 (Decorations, Medals, Badges, Commendations, Citations, and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized) lists the National Defense Service Medal and three marksmanship qualification badges.

d. The applicant's available service record reflects the following:

(1) DA Form 20 (Enlisted Qualification Record):

- Item 33 (Appointments and Reductions) – the applicant's chain of command progressively promoted him until he attained the rank/grade of specialist four (SP4)/E-4
- Item 38 (Record of Assignments – Conduct/Efficiency) – the applicant received "Excellent" ratings throughout his term of active duty
- Item 41 (Awards and Decorations) – the Army Commendation Medal is not listed

(2) The applicant's service record has no General Orders awarding the Army Commendation Medal; however, the record does include a copy of the Army Commendation Medal Citation, complete with an embossed seal for "HQ First U.S. Army Adjutant General's Office." His record is devoid of any derogatory information.

#### 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 was sufficient evidence to show the applicant was awarded the Army Commendation Medal (ARCOM) for meritorious service while assigned as a programmer at the Army Ordnance Center and School in Aberdeen Proving Ground Maryland.

2. During deliberation, the Board found the applicant's service record did not reflect he was awarded the Army Good Conduct Medal (1st Award) and his record shows he received "excellent" conduct and efficiency ratings throughout his service for the period of 11 September 1968 to 10 September 1970. Based on this the Board granted relief for correction of the applicant's record to show the Army Commendation Medal (ARCOM). and award of the Army Good Conduct Medal.

BOARD VOTE:

Mbr 1      Mbr 2      Mbr 3

■	■	■	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 Army records of the individual concerned be corrected by awarding him the Army Good Conduct Medal (1st Award) for exemplary service from 11 September 1968 to 10 September 1970 and adding the medal to his DD Form 214 for the period ending 10 September 1970 and the Army Commendation Medal.

4/8/2024

X

[Redacted Signature]

CHAIRPERSON

[Redacted Name]

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. It states the Army Commendation Medal may be awarded to any member of the Armed Forces of the United States who, while serving in any capacity with the Army after 6 December 1941, distinguishes himself or herself by heroism, meritorious achievement, or meritorious service. As with all personal decorations, formal recommendations, approval through the chain of command, and announcement in orders are required.
3. AR 672-5-1, in effect at the time, prescribed policies and procedures for military awards; it stated 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 the first award only, commanders could award the Army Good Conduct Medal, upon termination of the Soldier's service on or after 27 June 1950, if he or she

had served less than 3 years but more than 1 year. Additionally, the Soldier had to have had all "Excellent" conduct and efficiency ratings and no court-martial convictions.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//