

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 25 April 2024

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20230009819

APPLICANT REQUESTS: correction of his DD Form 214 (Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge) to show the:

- Combat Infantryman Badge
- Senior Parachutist Badge
- Vietnam Special Forces (VNSF) Honorary Jump Wings
- Basic Tropic Survival and Ethnic Familiarization Course
- Special Forces Extension Course

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- DD Form 214
- orders for the CIB and Senior Parachutist Badge
- VNSF Honorary Jump Wings orders, issued by the VNSF Commander
- Basic Tropic Survival and Ethnic Familiarization Course Certificate of Training
- Special Forces Extension Course Diploma

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 was awarded the badges and his DD Form 214 should reflect them.
3. The applicant's record contains orders for the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Senior Parachutist Badge, and the Sharpshooter Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Pistol Bar. Additionally, the applicant provides certificates of training for Basic Tropic Survival and Ethnic Familiarization Course and the Special Forces Extension Course, 2 May 1967.

a. There is sufficient evidence to correct his DD Form 214 by adding these items without Board action. These portions of the applicant's request will not be discussed further in this Record of Proceedings.

b. The Board will only consider the applicant's request for the VNSF Honorary Jump Wings.

4. The applicant enlisted in the Regular Army on 3 March 1966. His DA Form 20 (Enlisted Qualification Record) shows in:

- item 31 (Foreign Service), he served in Vietnam from 2 September 1968 to 7 October 1969
- item 38 (Record of Assignments), he was assigned to the 403rd Radio Research Detachment, 5th Special Forces Group, during his service in Vietnam

5. The applicant was released from active duty on 1 December 1969. His DD Form 214 shows:

a. Item 24 (Decorations, Medals, Badges, Commendations, Citations and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized) shows the:

- National Defense Service Medal
- Vietnam Service Medal
- Vietnam Campaign Medal (AKA: Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with device 1960)
- Army Good Conduct Medal
- Bronze Star Medal
- Expert Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Automatic Rifle Bar

b. Item 25 (Education and Training Completed) of the applicant's DD Form 214 does not show the Basic Tropic Survival and Ethnic Familiarization Course or the Special Forces Extension Course.

6. The applicant provided:

- orders issued by the VNSF Commander showing he was granted the VNSF Honorary Jump Wings
- Basic Tropic Survival and Ethnic Familiarization Course Certificate showing he completed this course in June 1967
- Special Forces Extension Course Diploma showing he completed this course in May 1967

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 evidence confirms the applicant was awarded the VNSF Honorary Jump Wings. The Board determined it would be appropriate to add this decoration to his DD Form 214.
3. The Board concurred with the corrections described in Administrative Note(s) below.

BOARD VOTE:

Mbr 1 Mbr 2 Mbr 3

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	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 adding the VNSF Honorary Jump Wings to his DD Form 214 and by making the corrections described in Administrative Note(s) below.

9/18/2024

X

CHAIRPERSON

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 the applicant's DD Form 214 ending 1 December 1969 by adding the following entries:

a. item 24 (Decorations, Medals, Badges, Commendations, Citations and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized):

- Combat Infantryman Badge
- Senior Parachutist Badge
- Sharpshooter Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Pistol Bar
- 4 bronze service stars with the Vietnam Service Medal
- Meritorious Unit Commendation
- Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation
- Republic of Vietnam Civil Actions Honor Medal First Class Unit Citation

b. item 25 (Education and Training Completed) -

- Basic Tropic Survival and Ethnic Familiarization Course, 30 June 1967
- Special Forces Extension Course, 2 May 1967

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 (Military Awards) prescribes Department of the Army policy, criteria, and administrative instructions concerning individual and unit military awards. The regulation states in chapter 9 (Foreign and International Decorations and Awards to U.S. Army Personnel):

a. Commanders serving in the rank of brigadier general/O-7 or above and colonel/O-6 level commanders who exercise general court-martial authority are delegated authority to approve the acceptance, retention, and permanent wear of foreign badges listed in appendix D (Foreign Badges). This authority may be further delegated to commanders charged with custody of military personnel record files.

b. Under current standards, foreign badges listed in appendix D are not annotated in an individual's Enlisted Record Brief or entered on the DD Form 214. This was not the case during the Vietnam era. The approved memorandum for acceptance and wear of foreign badges endorsed by the first general officer in the chain of command or the U.S. Army Human Resources Command Awards and Decorations Branch to include a copy

of the certificate and its supporting documents will be entered in the Army Military Human Resource Record of the recipient.

c. A bronze service star is authorized with the Vietnam Service Medal for each Vietnam campaign a member is credited with participating in. Appendix B shows that during his service in Vietnam, participation credit was awarded for four campaigns.

3. Army Regulation 635-5 (Separations Documents), in effect at the time, prescribed the separation documents prepared for Soldiers upon retirement, discharge, or release from active military service or control of the Army. It established standardized policy for the preparation of the DD Form 214. It states the DD Form 214 is a synopsis of the Soldier's most recent period of continuous active service. It provides a brief, clear-cut record of active Army service at the time of release from active duty, retirement, or discharge. The version of the regulation in effect at the time of the applicant's release from active states provides that for:

a. Item 24, enter all decorations, service medals, campaign credits, and badges awarded or authorized.

b. Item 25, enter installation training courses (qualification courses), military correspondence courses, and off-duty courses the enlisted person has completed successfully during the period covered by the DD Form 214.

4. Department of the Army Pamphlet 672-3 (Unit Citation and Campaign Participation Credit Register) shows:

a. The applicant participated in the below listed campaigns:

- Counteroffensive Phase V - (1 July 1968 to 1 November 1968)
- Counteroffensive Phase VI – (2 November 1968 to 22 February 1969)
- Tet 69/Counteroffensive – (23 February 1969 to 8 June 1969)
- Summer-Fall 1969 – (9 June 1969 to 31 October 1969)

b. The applicant's unit of assignment in Vietnam was awarded the:

- Meritorious Unit Commendation for the period 31 January – 31 December 1968
- Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation for the period 30 June 1967 – 17 May 1969
- Republic of Vietnam Civil Honor Actions First Class Unit Citation for the period January 1968 – September 1970

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//