

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 10 May 2024

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20230011507

APPLICANT REQUESTS:

- correction of his DD Form 214 (Report of Separation from Active Duty) to show his social security number as that reflected on his social security administration card
- a video/telephonic appearance before the Board

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- DD Form 214, for the period ending 25 October 1974
- Social Security Card

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 requesting to have his social security number amended to apply for Department of Veterans Affairs benefits.
3. The applicant provides his social security card, issued 12 May 2015, which reflects an entirely different number than reflected on his DD Form 214.
4. A review of the applicant's service record shows:
  - a. He enlisted in the Regular Army on 29 October 1971. His DD Form 4 (Enlistment/Reenlistment Document) shows in the social security number block the number reflected on his DD Form 214.

b. His DA Form 428 (Application for Identification Card), dated 28 February 1972, shows the applicant authenticated this form with his signature and the social security account number reflects the number on his DD Form 214.

c. A DA Form 20 (Enlisted Qualification Record), created upon the applicant's enlistment, reflects his social security number as that on his DD Form 214.

d. On 25 October 1974, he was honorably released from active duty. His DD Form 214 shows the contested number in item 3 (Social Security Number). He completed 2 years, 11 months, and 27 days.

5. The applicant's social security number was consistent throughout his service reflecting a number different than requested.

6. By regulation (AR 635-8), currently in effect, the DD Form 214 is a summary of the Soldier's most recent period of continuous active duty. It provides a brief, clear-cut record of all current active, prior active, and prior inactive duty service at the time of release from active duty, retirement, or discharge. The information entered thereon reflects the conditions as they existed at the time of separation. Block 3 (Social Security Number) states verify accuracy by reviewing initial enlistment contract and/or application for appointment. If the Soldier has had more than one social security number, list the other social security number of record in Block 18 (Remarks).

7. Also by regulation, an applicant is not entitled to a hearing before the ABCMR. Hearings may be authorized by a panel of the ABCMR or by the Director of the ABCMR.

#### BOARD DISCUSSION:

1. After reviewing the application, all supporting documents, and the evidence found within the military record, the Board found that relief was not warranted. The Board carefully considered the applicant's record of service, documents submitted in support of the petition, and executed a comprehensive review based on law, policy, and regulation. The evidence presented does not demonstrate the existence of a probable error or injustice. The applicant used the contested social security number during his entire period of service. The Board determined the overall merits of this case are insufficient as a basis for correction of the records of the individual concerned. Based on the service record and a preponderance of the evidence, the Board denied relief.

2. The Army has an interest in maintaining the integrity of its records for historical purposes. The information in those records must reflect the conditions and

circumstances that existed at the time the records were created. In the absence of evidence that shows a material error or injustice, there is a reluctance to recommend that those records be changed.

3. The applicant is advised that a copy of this decisional document, along with his application and the supporting evidence he provided, will be filed in his official military records. This should serve to clarify any questions or confusion regarding the difference in the social security number recorded in his military records and to satisfy his desire to have his social security number documented in his military records.

4. The applicant's request for a personal appearance hearing was carefully considered. In this case, the evidence of record was sufficient to render a fair and equitable decision. As a result, a personal appearance hearing is not necessary to serve the interest of equity and justice in this case.

BOARD VOTE:

Mbr 1    Mbr 2    Mbr 3

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

BOARD DETERMINATION/RECOMMENDATION:

The evidence presented does not demonstrate the existence of a probable error or injustice. Therefore, the Board determined the overall merits of this case are insufficient as a basis for correction of the records of the individual concerned.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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, 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 635-8 (Separation Processing and Documents), currently in effect, states the DD Form 214 is a summary of the Soldier's most recent period of continuous active duty. It provides a brief, clear-cut record of all current active, prior active, and prior inactive duty service at the time of release from active duty, retirement, or discharge. The information entered thereon reflects the conditions as they existed at the time of separation. Block 3 (Social Security Number) states verify accuracy by reviewing initial enlistment contract and/or application for appointment. If the Soldier has had more than one social security number, list the other social security number of record in Block 18 (Remarks).

3. Army Regulation (AR) 15-185 (ABCMR) prescribes the policies and procedures for correction of military records by the Secretary of the Army, acting through the ABCMR. The ABCMR begins its consideration of each case with the presumption of administrative regularity, which is that what the Army did was correct.

a. The ABCMR is not an investigative body and decides cases based on the evidence that is presented in the military records provided and the independent evidence submitted with the application. The applicant has the burden of proving an error or injustice by a preponderance of the evidence.

b. The ABCMR may, in its discretion, hold a hearing or request additional evidence or opinions. Additionally, it states in paragraph 2-11 that applicants do not have a right to a hearing before the ABCMR. The Director or the ABCMR may grant a formal hearing whenever justice requires.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//