

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 6 June 2024

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20230011777

APPLICANT REQUESTS:

- award of the Combat Medical Badge
- correction of his Bronze Star Medal permanent orders and certificate to reflect his Social Security Number (SSN) as [REDACTED] in lieu of [REDACTED]
- in effect, inclusion of the Bronze Star Medal on his DD Form 214 (Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge)

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

- two DD Forms 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- Headquarters, Americal Division General Orders Number 9586, 21 September 1969
- Headquarters, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) General Orders Number 11704, 22 September 1970
- Bronze Star Medal Certificate, dated 31 March 1971
- Headquarters, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) General Orders Number 3235, 19 April 1971

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:

a. He met the criteria for award of the Combat Medical Badge in 1970, while serving as a Medical Corpsman providing medical support to the ground combat arms unit in Vietnam at Fire Support Base Ripcord, as well as with the 17th Cavalry Regiment, but was never awarded the badge. He requests his records reflect he met the criteria and was awarded the Combat Medical Badge.

b. He has provided documentation as evidence that he was assigned to combat units that were actively engaged in active ground combat and that he provided medical support to the ground combat arms unit. He was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device for actions taking place on 23 July 1970 with 101st Airborne Division, Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment, on Fire Support Base Ripcord, in the Republic of Vietnam. He was awarded the Soldier's Medal for actions taking place on 4 July 1969, with H Troop, 17th Cavalry Regiment, in the Republic of Vietnam.

c. He requests that the Bronze Star Medal he was awarded on 31 March 1971 be changed to show his correct SSN. Both the General Orders and the certificate show the incorrect SSN of [REDACTED] and he is requesting correction to show his correct SSN of [REDACTED]. His records should also be corrected to reflect he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal. He doubts if there is another individual with his same name and the SSN [REDACTED]. This is a one number deviation that must have been a typographical error. This Bronze Star Medal is also additional evidence that he was assigned to combat units that were actively engaged in active ground combat and that he provided medical support to the ground combat arms units.

3. The applicant enlisted in the Regular Army on 22 September 1967.

4. The applicant's DA Form 20 (Enlisted Qualification Record) shows:

a. His SSN is [REDACTED]

b. Item 22 (Military Occupational Specialties (MOS)) shows his MOSs were 91A (Medical Corpsman), which is lined through, and 91B (Medical Specialist).

c. Item 31 (Foreign Service) shows he served his first tour in Vietnam from 3 November 1968 through 2 November 1969.

d. Item 38 (Record of Assignments) shows his units of assignment during his first tour in Vietnam were:

(1) Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC), 4th Battalion, 47th Infantry Regiment, 9th Infantry Division, from 12 November 1968 through 14 February 1969, where his duty MOS was 91B and his principal duty was Ambulance Driver.

(2) D Company, 23rd Medical Battalion, from 15 February 1969 through 23 October 1969, where his duty MOS was 91B and his principal duty was Ambulance Driver.

e. Item 44 (Time Lost under Section 972, Title 10, U.S. Code and Subsequent to Normal Date Expiration Term of Service (ETS)) shows 2 days absent without leave (AWOL) from 11 April 1968 through 12 April 1968.

5. Headquarters, Americal Division, General Orders Number 9586, dated 21 September 1969, awarded the applicant the Soldier's Medal while serving with H Troop, 17th Cavalry Regiment, 198th Infantry Brigade, in the Republic of Vietnam for heroism not involving actual conflict with an armed enemy in the Republic of Vietnam on 4 July 1969, when he rushed to the scene of an explosion wherein a convoy detonated a mine and carried two injured comrades to a secure area, saving their lives. The SSN listed on the order is [REDACTED]

6. The applicant's DA Form 20 further shows:

a. Item 31 shows he served his second tour in Vietnam from 10 June 1970 through 9 June 1971.

b. Item 38 shows his unit of assignment during his second tour in Vietnam was HHC, 2nd Battalion (Airmobile), 506th Infantry Regiment, from 26 June 1970 through 17 April 1971, where his duty MOS was 91B and his principal duty was Medical Specialist from 26 June 1970 through 30 July 1970 and Senior Medical Aidman from 31 July 1970 through 27 April 1971. The applicant's conduct and efficiency were rated "Excellent" in all periods of assignment from enlistment through release from active duty.

c. Item 39 (Campaigns) reflects his participation in three campaigns.

d. Item 41 (Awards and Decorations) shows:

- National Defense Service Medal
- Sharpshooter Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar
- Vietnam Service Medal
- Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960)
- Soldier's Medal
- Air Medal
- Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device

7. Headquarters, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) General Orders Number 11704, dated 22 September 1970, awarded the applicant the Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device for heroism in the Republic of Vietnam on 23 July 1970, while serving as a Medical Aidman in HHC, 2nd Battalion (Airmobile), 506th Infantry Regiment, on Fire Support Base Ripcord, Republic of Vietnam. During the evacuation of the besieged firebase, the applicant administered first aid to the wounded men in his platoon.

Responding to a call for assistance from another Medical Aidman, the applicant subjected himself to the hostile fire while crossing open terrain to help treat the wounded. The SSN listed on the order is [REDACTED]

8. A Bronze Star Medal Certificate shows the applicant was awarded the Bronze Star Medal on 31 March 1971, for meritorious achievement in ground operations against hostile forces in the Republic of Vietnam during the period of June 1970 to April 1971. The applicant's SSN is shown as [REDACTED]

9. A partial copy reflecting the first page of Headquarters, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) General Orders Number 3235, dated 19 April 1971, shows the applicant was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service while assigned to the 2nd Battalion (Airmobile), 506th Infantry Regiment in the Republic of Vietnam, from June 1970 to April 1971. The SSN listed on the order is [REDACTED]

10. The applicant's DD Form 214 shows:

a. He was honorably released from active duty on 2 May 1971 as an overseas returnee and transferred to the U.S. Army Reserve (USAR) Control Group (Standby). He was credited with 3 years, 7 months, and 9 days of net active service this period, including two periods of service in Vietnam, amounting to 2 years, 1 month, and 27 days.

b. His SSN is shown as [REDACTED] and his MOS is shown as 91B.

c. Item 24 (Decorations, Awards, Badges, Commendations, Citations, and Campaign ribbons Awarded or Authorized) shows:

- National Defense Service Medal
- Soldier's Medal
- Sharpshooter Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-14)
- Air Medal
- Vietnam Service Medal
- Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device
- Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960)
- two overseas service bars

#### 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 citation for the applicant's Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device confirms he met the criteria for the Combat Medical Badge. The Board determined he should be awarded the badge and it should be added to his DD Form 214.
3. 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.
4. The Board concurred with the corrections described in Administrative Note(s) below.

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 the Army records of the individual concerned be corrected by:

- Awarding him the Combat Medical Badge effective 23 July 1970
- Awarding him the Army Good Conduct Medal for the period 22 September 1967 through 21 September 1970
- Adding the Combat Medical Badge and Army Good Conduct Medal to his DD Form 214
- Making the corrections described in Administrative Note(s) below

11/4/2024

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):

1. General Orders Number 3235, issued by Headquarters, 101st Airborne Division on 19 April 1971, and the resultant certificate, awarding him the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service, contain an incorrect SSN. Amend the General Order to reflect the correct SSN, XXX-XX-2352. Also issue the applicant a new certificate for this award.

2. A review of the applicant's records shows his DD Form 214 covering the period ending 2 May 1971 should be amended by adding the following awards:

- Bronze Star Medal
- One silver service star and one bronze service star 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

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 Army policy, criteria, and administrative instructions concerning individual and unit military awards.

a. The Bronze Star Medal is awarded in time of war for heroism and for meritorious achievement or service, not involving participation in aerial flight, in connection with military operations against an armed enemy, or while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party. As with all personal decorations, formal recommendations, approval through the chain of command, and announcement in orders are required.

b. A bronze service star is authorized with the Vietnam Service Medal for participation in each credited campaign.

c. The Combat Medical Badge is awarded to medical department personnel (colonel and below) who are assigned or attached to a medical unit of company or smaller size that is organic to an infantry unit of brigade, regimental or smaller size which is engaged in active ground combat. Battle participation credit is not sufficient; the infantry unit must have been in contact with the enemy and the Soldier must have been personally present and under fire during such ground combat.

d. The Army Good Conduct Medal is awarded to individuals who distinguish themselves by their conduct, efficiency, and fidelity during a qualifying period of active duty enlisted service. This period is 3 years except in those cases when the period for the first award ends with the termination of a period of Federal military service. Although there is no automatic entitlement to the Army Good Conduct Medal, disqualification must be justified.

3. Department of the Army Pamphlet 672-3 (Unit Citation and Campaign Participation Credit Register) lists the awards received by units serving in Vietnam. It shows:

a. The 4th Battalion, 47th Infantry Regiment was awarded:

(1) The Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation for the period January 1969 through June 1969, in Department of the Army General Orders Number 59, dated 1969.

(2) The Republic of Vietnam Civil Actions Honor Medal, First Class, for the period 19 December 1966 through 28 June 1969, in Department of the Army General Orders Number 59, dated 1969.

b. The 23rd Medical Battalion was awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation, for the period 1 September 1969 through 31 January 1971, in Department of the Army General Orders Number 32, dated 1973.

c. The 2nd Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment was awarded the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation for the period 1 March 1971 through 9 October 1971, in Department of the Army General Orders Number 6, dated 1974.

d. The named Vietnam campaigns include:

- Vietnam Counteroffensive, Phase VI, 2 November 1968 – 22 February 1969
- TET 69 Counteroffensive, 23 February 1969 – 8 June 1969
- Vietnam Summer-Fall 1969, 9 June 1969 – 31 October 1969
- Vietnam Winter-Spring 1970, 1 November 1969 – 30 April 1970
- DA Sanctuary Counteroffensive, 1 May 1970 – 30 June 1970
- Vietnam Counteroffensive, Phase VII, 1 July 1970 – 30 June 1971

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//