

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 13 June 2024

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20230012362

APPLICANT REQUESTS: Award of the National Defense Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal, Far East Service Medal, Sea Service Medal, Guam Service Medal, and the Marksman Badge

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- Separation Qualification Record
- DD Form 214 (Report of Separation for the Armed Forces of the United States)

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 should be awarded the listed decorations because he served his country honorably during a time of war.
3. The Board has requested the applicant's military records from the repository in St. Louis, Missouri, but without success. A fire destroyed approximately 18 million service members' records at the National Personnel Records Center in 1973. It is believed his records were lost in that fire. The information below is taken from the Separation Qualification Record provided by the applicant.
4. The applicant enlisted in the Regular Army on 31 October 1949 for 3 years, completed training in the military occupational specialty 1727 (Water Supply Specialist). The highest grade he held was E-3.
5. The Separation Qualification Record shows:
  - a. At block 20 (Qualified to Operate) lists qualification for automobiles, 2 1/2 ton trucks and motorcycle.

b. It does not contain conduct and efficiency ratings, duty assignments, awards or decorations or weapons qualifications.

6. The applicant was honorably discharged on 16 January 1953. The DD Form 214 issued at that time shows:

- 3 years, 2 months, and 16 days of net active service this period
- 6 months and 6 days of inactive service
- 1 year, 10 months, and 4 days of foreign and/or sea service
- Item 27 (Decorations, Medals, Badges, Commendations, Citations and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized) - "NONE"
- His most significant duty assignment is listed as ENGR SVC CO MARBO 815 9th AU
- No lost time

6. There is no official military award known as the Far East Service Medal or the Guam Service Medal.

#### BOARD DISCUSSION:

1. After reviewing the application, all supporting documents, and the evidence found within the military record, the Board found partial relief is warranted.

2. The applicant has requested two medals that do not exist within the Army's military awards program. Accordingly, the Far East Service Medal and the Guam Service Medal he requested will not be addressed.

3. The Board determined the available records show he is not eligible for retroactive award of the Army Sea Duty Ribbon, which requires evidence of 2 years of duty on qualifying United States Army Vessels after 1 August 1952.

4. The available records contain no information regarding the applicant's weapons qualifications. As such, the Board determined there is no basis for adding a marksmanship qualification badge to his DD Form 214.

5. The Board found the information available on his DD Form 214 is sufficient to confirm he 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.

6. The Board concurred with the correction 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:

1. The Board determined the evidence presented is sufficient to warrant a recommendation for partial relief. As a result, the Board recommends that all Department of the Army records of the individual concerned be corrected by:
  - Awarding him the Army Good Conduct Medal for the period 31 October 1949 through 30 October 1952
  - Adding the Army Good Conduct Medal to his DD Form 214
  - Making the correction described in Administrative Note(s) below
2. The Board further determined the evidence presented is insufficient to warrant a portion of the requested relief. As a result, the Board recommends denial of so much of the application that pertains to any relief in excess of that described above.

12/9/2024

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):

A review of the applicant's record shows his DD Form 214, for the period ending 16 January 1953 is missing an entry that does not require Board action. As a result, amend the DD Form 214 by adding the National Defense Service Medal.

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 15-185 (Army Board for Correction of Military Records (ABCMR)), states the ABCMR begins its consideration of each case with the presumption of administrative regularity. It will decide cases on the evidence of record and it is not an investigative body. The applicant has the burden of proving an error or injustice by a preponderance of the evidence.

3. Army Regulation 600-8-22 (Military Awards) sets forth the basic authority, policy, criteria, and administrative instructions concerning individual military awards and decorations. The regulation lists all authorized awards and decorations with their eligibility requirements. It provides that:

- the 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 active Federal military service. A record of punishment is not automatically disqualifying. Although there is no automatic entitlement to the Good Conduct Medal, disqualification must be justified
- the Army Sea Duty Ribbon is awarded to active duty members who complete two years of cumulative sea duty on a Class A or B U.S. Army Vessel or for duty aboard other qualifying vessels when such vessels meet the requirements of AR 600-88, paragraph 1-7
- the Army Sea Duty Ribbon may be awarded retroactively to those personnel who were credited with service the years of service described above after 1 August 1952, the activation date of the first heavy boat company in the Transportation Corps
- the National Defense Service Medal is awarded for honorable active service for any period between 27 June 1950 and 27 July 1954.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//