

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 15 May 2024

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20230012944

APPLICANT REQUESTS: in effect, award of the Noncommission Officer Professional Development Ribbon (NCOPDR) (used to be called the NCO Candidate Course Ribbon) and correction of his DD Form 214 (Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge) for the period ending 1 May 1972 to add this award.

APPLICANT'S SUPPORTING DOCUMENT(S) CONSIDERED BY THE BOARD:  
DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record), dated 22 August 2023.

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, in effect, he should be awarded the NCOPDR based on Army Regulation 600-8-22 (Military Awards) presently in effect.
3. The applicant's records contain sufficient evidence to support an administrative correction to his DD Form 214 to add weapons qualifications without Board action and will be reflected in the "Administrative Notes" section of this document.
4. A review of the applicant's service records shows:
  - a. On 27 October 1970, he enlisted in the Regular Army for a period of 2 years.
  - b. His DA Form 20 (Enlisted Qualification Record) shows in:
    - (1) item 38 (Record of Assignments) – he was assigned to 81st Company, Training Support Battalion, U.S. Army Infantry School, Fort Benning, in the duty role of NCO Candidate (NCO Training), from 5 April 1971 to 29 June 1971;
    - (2) item 41 (Awards and Decorations) – he was awarded or authorized:

- National Defense Service Medal
- Expert Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Machine Gun Bar (M-60) and Pistol Bar (.45 caliber)
- Sharpshooter Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-16)

c. On 1 May 1972, he was honorably released from active duty and transferred to control of the U.S. Army Reserve Control Group (Annual Training). He completed 1 year, 6 months, and 5 days of net active service this period. His DD Form 214 shows in:

(1) item 24 (Decorations, Medals, Badges, Commendations, Citations, and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized) – he was awarded or authorized:

- National Defense Service Medal
- Army Good Conduct Medal
- Sharpshooter Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar

(2) item 25 (Education and Training Completed) – Basic Combat Training and Leadership Course.

#### 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 and standard review based on law, policy and regulation. Upon review of the applicants petition and available military records the Board determined the applicant's record is absent a DA Form 1059 (Service School Academic Evaluation Report) showing completion of the NCO Candidate Course. The Board found insufficient evidence that support award of the Noncommission Officer Professional Development Ribbon (NCOPDR). Based on the absence of a course completion document, the Board denied relief.

2. This board is not an investigative body. The Board determined despite the absence of the applicant's records, they agreed the burden of proof rest on the applicant, however, he did not provide sufficient supporting documentation and his service record has insufficient evidence to support the applicant contentions that he completed the NCO Candidate Course.

3. Prior to closing the case, the Board did note the analyst of record administrative notes below, and recommended the correction is completed to more accurately depict the military service of the applicant.

BOARD VOTE:

<u>Mbr 1</u>	<u>Mbr 2</u>	<u>Mbr 3</u>	
:	:	:	GRANT FULL RELIEF
:	:	:	GRANT PARTIAL RELIEF
:	:	:	GRANT FORMAL HEARING
█	█	█	DENY APPLICATION

BOARD DETERMINATION/RECOMMENDATION:

Except for the correction addressed in Administrative Note(s) below, the Board found 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.

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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):

The applicant's records contain sufficient evidence to support additional awards not shown on his DD Form 214 and should be administratively corrected to show award of the:

- Expert Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Machine Gun Bar (M-60)
- Expert Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Pistol Bar (.45 caliber)

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 Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon was established by the SECARMY on 10 April 1981 as announced in AGO 1990-15. It is awarded to Regular Army, ARNG, and USAR Soldiers for successful completion of designated NCO professional development courses.

b. Soldiers must successfully complete one or more of the courses listed in Army Regulation 350-1, which are further described on the Army Training Requirements and Resources System website (<https://www.atrrs.army.mil/>).

c. Acceptable evidence of graduation is a diploma, certificate, or a letter signed by an appropriate service school official. Graduates of NCO Academy courses conducted prior to 1976 for the Regular Army, and 1980 for RCs, will be given credit for the primary level only.

d. Effective 1 August 1981, all Regular Army, ARNG, and USAR Soldiers in an active status are eligible for this award for satisfactory completion of the respective NCO Education System or RC-NCO Education System courses. The NCOPDR consists of the basic ribbon with numeral devices of 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6, which signify satisfactory completion of the respective levels of NCO professional development courses as outlined in table 5-1.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//