

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 12 September 2024

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20230014472

APPLICANT REQUESTS: correction of his DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) by adding the National Defense Service Medal and Coast Guard Unit Commendation.

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- Screenshot of Coast Guard Awards
- DD Form 214 period ending 28 February 2014 (United States Marine Corps (USMC))
- DD Form 214 period ending 7 September 2018 (United States Army Reserve (USAR))

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 has exhausted all the resources available to him. He is eligible for the National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) based on his time served on active-duty and reserve service in the Marine Corps and Army Reserve. The NDSM was never added to his original DD Form 214. Additionally, he was awarded the Coast Guard Unit Commendation (CGUC) by the Coast Guard for volunteer services while he was enlisted in the Army Reserve in 2018. His award record shows he was awarded the CGUC on 23 June 2019 by the Coast Guard Commandant.
3. The applicant provides the following:
  - a. A screenshot of Coast Guard awards that shows the applicant's award record for two awards and their award dates.

- CG Unit Commendation – 23 June 2019
- DHS Outstanding Unit Award – 7 February 2022

b. A DD Form 214 for the service period ending 28 February 2014 for his service in the U.S. Marine Corps (USMC).

c. His DD Form 214 for the service period ending 7 September 2018.

4. A review of the applicant's service record shows:

a. He entered active duty with the USMC on 3 February 2014. His DD Form 214 shows he was separated on 28 February 2014.

b. He enlisted in the USAR on 22 September 2017.

c. Orders 208-144 dated 29 June 2018, ordered the applicant to initial active duty for training with a report date of 3 July 2018.

d. A DA Form 4707 (Entrance Physical Standards Board (EPSBD) Proceedings), dated 8 August 2018, shows after careful consideration of medical records, laboratory findings, and medical examinations, the board found that the service member was medically unfit for appointment or enlistment in accordance with current medical fitness standards and in the opinion of the evaluating physicians, the condition(s) existed prior to service. The findings included the applicant's diagnosis for severe iron deficiency anemia. The findings were approved by the medical approving authority on 8 August 2018 and the applicant concurred with the proceedings on 27 August 2018.

e. He was discharged from active duty on 7 September 2018 with an uncharacterized characterization of service. His DD Form 214 shows he completed 2 months, and 5 days of total active service. It also shows he was not authorized or awarded medals, citations, or badges.

5. Army Regulation 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.

6. Army Regulation 600-8-22 (Military Awards) states Army National Guard and U.S. Army Reserve forces personnel on short tours of duty to fulfill training obligations under an inactive duty training program will not be considered as performing active service which qualifies for award of the National Defense Service Medal.

7. By regulation (AR 635-8), 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.

BOARD DISCUSSION:

1. After reviewing the application, all supporting documents, and the evidence found within the military record, the Board found relief is not warranted.
2. The Board found that, because the applicant's only service was in a trainee status, he did not meet the criteria for the National Defense Service Medal. The Board determined this medal should not be added to his DD Form 214.
3. Regarding the Coast Guard Unit Commendation, the Board found the screen shot the applicant provided insufficient as a basis for confirming he is authorized the award and also noted the award date is after the separation date on his Army DD Form 214. The Board determined there is no basis for adding the Coast Guard Unit Commendation to his Army DD Form 214.

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.

3/4/2025

  
XCHAIRPERSON  


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 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. 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.
3. Army Regulation 600-8-22 (Military Awards) states the National Defense Service Medal is awarded for honorable active service for any period between 27 June 1950 and 27 July 1954, 1 January 1961 and 14 August 1974, 2 August 1990 and 30 November 1995, and 11 September 2001 and a date to be determined. Executive Order 12776 extended award of the National Defense Service Medal to all members of the Army National Guard and the U. S. Army Reserve who were part of the Selected Reserve in good standing during the period 2 August 1990 through 30 November 1995. Members of other than the Selected Reserve who were called to active duty will also be eligible. During these periods, service members in the following categories will not be considered eligible for the National Defense Service Medal: (1) any service member on

active duty for the sole purpose of undergoing a physical examination; or (2) any Soldier of the Individual Ready Reserve, Inactive National Guard, or the Standby or Retired Reserve whose active duty service was for training only or to serve on boards, courts, commissions, and like organizations.

4. 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.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//