

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 18 June 2024

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20230014570

APPLICANT REQUESTS:

- award of the Vietnam Service Medal (VSM)
- award of the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal (RVSM) with Device (1960)
- award of the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- DD Form 214 (Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge) effective 14 December 1967

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 award of the Vietnam Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960), and Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation from his foreign service in Thailand. The applicant was stationed at Camp Friendship, next to the Royal Thai Air Base in Korat, Thailand. He was informed of these awards by his friend, Mr. M.M. from the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Post 7134 in Palmerton, PA.

3. A review of the applicant's records shows:

- a. On 18 January 1966, he was inducted into the Army of the United States.
- b. His DA Form 20 (Enlisted Qualification Record) shows he served in Thailand from 1 January 1967 to 13 December 1967 (11 months, 13 days), assigned to the 511th Supply Company, U.S. Army Pacific.

c. The applicant was honorably released from active duty on 14 December 1967. His DD Form 214 (Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge) shows he completed 1 year, 10 months, and 27 days of total active service with no lost time. He was assigned separation program number code (SPN) 411 and the narrative reason for separation listed "Early Separation of Overseas Return," with reentry code 1. It also shows he was authorized the: National Defense Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal (1st award), and Expert Marksmanship Qualification Badge (Rifle).

4. By regulation (AR 600-8-22),

a. The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960) was awarded for qualifying service in Vietnam during the period 1 March 1961, through 28 March 1973.

b. The Vietnam Service Medal is awarded to all members of the Armed Forces of the United States for qualifying service in Vietnam after 3 July 1965 through 28 March 1973. Members in Thailand, Laos, or Cambodia during the same period and serving in direct support of operations in Vietnam are also eligible for this award.

c. The Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross as a personal decoration was awarded by the Republic of Vietnam to selected personnel who conducted themselves with heroic action and displayed deeds of valor while fighting the enemy. The more gallant and noteworthy the act, the higher the level of the award.

6. Department of the Army General Orders Number 8, dated 1974, announced award of the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation to Headquarters, U.S. Military Assistance Command and its subordinate units during the period 8 February 1962 to 28 March 1973 and to Headquarters, U.S. Army Vietnam and its subordinate units during the period 20 July 1965 to 28 March 1973.

#### BOARD DISCUSSION:

After reviewing the application, all supporting documents, and the evidence found within the military record, the Board found that relief was not warranted. The applicant's contentions, the military record, and regulatory guidance were carefully considered.

a. Vietnam Service Medal: Award of Vietnam Service Medal and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal are reserved to those Soldiers who served in Vietnam. However, Soldiers who were stationed in selected locations outside Vietnam and provided direct support to the war effort in Vietnam are also eligible for those medals. Members in Thailand who served in direct support of operations in Vietnam are also eligible for these awards. "Direct support" is defined as services being supplied the combat forces in the area of operations by ground units, ships, and aircraft providing supplies and equipment to the forces concerned, provided it involves actually entering

the designated area, and ships and aircraft providing fire, patrol, guard, reconnaissance, or other military support. Regrettably, there is insufficient evidence the applicant provided direct support or entered Vietnam. As a result, there is insufficient evidence to support awarding him the Vietnam Service Medal or the Vietnam Campaign Medal.

b. Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation: Deny. HQDA General Orders Number 8, dated 1974, announced award of the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation to Headquarters, U.S. Military Assistance Command and its subordinate units during the period 8 February 1962 to 28 March 1973 and to Headquarters, U.S. Army Vietnam and its subordinate units during the period 20 July 1965 to 28 March 1973. The applicant's unit, 511th Supply Company was a subordinate element to the United States Army Support Thailand (USARSUPTHAI).

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.

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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.

REFERENCES:

1. 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) states:

a. The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960) was awarded for qualifying service in Vietnam during the period March 1, 1961, through March 28, 1973. Qualifying service included assignment in Vietnam for 6 months or more. Qualifying service outside the geographical limits of the Republic of Vietnam required the individual to provide direct combat support to the Republic of Vietnam and Armed Forces. Also eligible for this award are individuals who qualified for award of the Vietnam Service Medal or the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and served for less than six months of service but:

- were wounded as a result of hostile action
- were captured by hostile forces but later escaped or were rescued or released
- were killed in action or otherwise in line of duty

b. The Vietnam Service Medal is awarded to all members of the Armed Forces of the United States for qualifying service in Vietnam after 3 July 1965 through 28 March 1973. Qualifying service included attachment to or assignment for 1 or more days with an organization participating in or directly supporting military operations. Members in Thailand, Laos, or Cambodia during the same period and serving in direct support of operations in Vietnam are also eligible for this award. Direct support is defined as services being supplied to participating forces in the area of eligibility and includes:

- units, ships, and aircraft providing it involves actually entering the designated area
- ships and aircraft providing fire, patrol, guard, reconnaissance, or other military support within the designated area of eligibility
- bronze service stars are not authorized on the VSM when awarded for service in Thailand, Laos, or Cambodia

c. The Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross as a personal decoration was awarded to personnel who conducted themselves with heroic action and displayed deeds of valor while fighting the enemy. The more gallant and noteworthy the act, the higher the level of the award. This decoration was awarded in four degrees: with Palm, with Gold Star, with Silver Star, and with Bronze Star. Approval to accept and to wear a personal award

of the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross required approval by the Commanding General of United States Army, Vietnam.

3. Department of the Army Pamphlet 672-3 (Unit Citation and Campaign Participation Credit Register) lists the awards received by units serving in Vietnam. Department of the Army General Orders Number 8, dated 1974, announced award of the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation to Headquarters, U.S. Military Assistance Command and its subordinate units during the period 8 February 1962 to 28 March 1973 and to Headquarters, U.S. Army Vietnam and its subordinate units during the period 20 July 1965 to 28 March 1973.

4. According to the Center of Military History, the 511th Supply Company (General Support) (5 January 1967 – 1 April 1967) – Korat, was a subordinate element to the 7th Maintenance Battalion located at Camp USARTHAI / Friendship, Korat.

a. The 9th Logistical Command (B) was located in Thailand. The 9th Logistical Command had storage locations in Korat and Sattahip, ammunition and general cargo terminals in Sattahip and became the logistical management organization of United States Army Support Thailand (USARSUPTHAI), with 3 subordinate battalions:

- 7th Maintenance Battalion (15 July 1965 – 25 June 1971) headquartered in Korat; assumed the logistical mission and begin training Royal Thai Army students; the 7th Maintenance Battalion continued to have the responsibility for providing repair parts supply support for army units in Thailand.
- 558th Supply and Service Battalion (17 March 1968 – 1 July 1969) Augmentation arrived and was located with Task Force Kanchanaburi.
- 501st Field Depot (18 March 1967 – 20 December 1968) located in Korat assuming the logistical mission from the 7th first at Camp Friendship, Korat and then shifted to Sattahip.

b. The 7th Maintenance Battalion began operating the Korat Army Depot Complex where prepositioned stocks were stored and maintained; and the adjacent Ammo Supply Point's (ASP), while providing direct and limited general support maintenance and on-the-job-training (OJT) to selected soldiers of the Royal Thai Army, with training being conducted at Camp Friendship, Korat.

c. On 1 April 1967 the 9th Logistical Command underwent a significant reorganization resulting in the following units being relieved from the 7th Maintenance Battalion and assigned to the 501st Field Depot by General Order 30, Headquarters, 9th Logistical Command, dated 29 March 1967. These units include the 511th Supply Company (General Support) (1 April 1967 – 20 December 1968) – Korat

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//