

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 6 August 2024

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20230014770

APPLICANT REQUESTS: reconsideration of his earlier request for award of:

- Valorous Unit Award (VUA)
- Meritorious Unit Commendation (MUC)

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record), 30 October 2023
- Self-Authored Statement, 20 October 2023
- Unit Orders Number 11, Headquarters (HQ), 2D Battalion, 319th Artillery, 21 February 1969
- Special Orders (SO) Number 330, HQ, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile), 26 November 1969
- DA Form 20 (Enlisted Qualification Record)
- Extract, DA PAM 672-3 (Department of the Army Pamphlet 672-3 (Unit Citation and Campaign Participation Credit Register (January 1960 – February 1986)), page 100
- ARBA Letter, 11 June 2021
- Page 3, Army Board for Correction of Military Records (ABCMR) Docket Number AR20200001856, 28 October 2020

FACTS:

1. Incorporated herein by reference are military records which were summarized in the previous consideration of the applicant's case by the Army Board for Correction of Military Records (ABCMR) in Docket Number AR20190012557 on 1 August 2019 and in ABCMR Docket Number AR20200001856 on 28 October 2020.

2. The applicant states,

a. He is requesting a new decision based on two orders given to him while he was in Vietnam.

b. Orders promoting him, dated 21 February 1969, and orders assigning his date of eligibility to return from overseas, dated 26 November 1969, reveal he was assigned to a unit in Vietnam qualifying him for a MUC for the dates 1 November 1968 to 30 June 1970 based on DA PAM 672-3.

c. It is also noted on his DA Form 20, but it was not given to him.

3. The applicant provides:

a. Unit Orders Number 11, 21 February 1969, showing he was promoted to specialist 4/E-4 while assigned to 319th Artillery, Vietnam.

b. SO Number 330, 26 November 1969, reflecting he was assigned a DEROS of 16 December 1969.

c. An extract from DA PAM 672-3.

d. Page 3 from ABCMR Docket Number AR202000001856, 28 October 2020, showing DA General Orders (DAGO), dated 1971 awarded the MUC to U.S. Army Special Security Detachment, 101st Airborne Division for the period 1 November 1968 to 30 June 1970.

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

a. On 7 September 1967, the applicant enlisted in the Regular Army.

b. He served in Vietnam from 16 November 1968 to 14 December 1969 and was assigned to:

- 2nd Battalion, 319th Artillery (Airmobile), from 1 December 1968 to 14 April 1969
- Confinement, U.S. Army Republic of Vietnam Stockade, 15 April 1969 to 14 May 1969
- 2nd Battalion, 319th Artillery (Airmobile), 15 May 1969 to 13 December 1969

c. On 14 December 1969, he returned to the continental United States.

d. His DA Form 20 shows in item 41 (Awards and Decorations) –

- National Defense Service Medal
- Vietnam Service Medal
- Marksman Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-14)
- Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960)

- two overseas bars
- Meritorious Unit Commendation Armed Forces Level
- Expert Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-16)

e. On 6 October 1970, he was honorably released from active duty. His DD Form 214 shows in item 24 (Decorations, Medals, Badges, Commendations, Citations and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized) –

- National Defense Service Medal
- Vietnam Service Medal
- Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960)

f. On 23 December 2019, he was issued DD Form 215 (Correction to DD Form 214), which amended his DD Form 214, dated 6 October 1970. These amendments did not include the Valorous Unit Award and the Meritorious Unit Commendation.

5. On 1 August 2019 and in ABCMR Docket Number AR20180012557, the Board denied, in part, his request for the MUC, finding the applicant not qualified for the portion of his request for the MUC.

6. On 28 October 2020 and in ABCMR Docket Number AR20200001856, the Board denied his request for awards of the VUA and the MUC, finding insufficient evidence he was assigned to a unit while the VUA or the MUC was awarded.

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. The evidence of record shows the applicant served in Vietnam from 16 November 1968 to 14 December 1969 and was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 319th Artillery, from 1 December 1968 to 14 April 1969; Confinement, 15 April 1969 to 14 May 1969; and again 2nd Battalion, 319th Artillery, 15 May 1969 to 13 December 1969.

- The 2d Battalion, 319th Artillery was awarded the Valorous Unit Award for the period 13 June 1968 to 23 September 1968. He was not assigned to this unit during this period
- The 2d Battalion, 319th Artillery was awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation for the period 14 March 1968 to 3 October 1968. He was not assigned to this unit during this period

- The U.S. Army Special Security Detachment, 101st Airborne Division was awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation for the period 1 November 1968 to 30 June 1970. He was not assigned to this unit during this period

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 to amend the decision of the ABCMR set forth in Dockets Number

- AR20190012557 on 1 August 2019
- AR20200001856 on 28 October 2020.

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. Army Regulation 600-8-22 (Military Awards) prescribes Army policy, criteria, and administrative instructions concerning individual and unit military awards.

a. The Valorous Unit Award may be awarded to units of the Armed Forces of the United States and cobelligerent nations for extraordinary heroism in action against an armed enemy of the United States while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force or while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party for actions occurring on or after 3 August 1963.

b. The Meritorious Unit Commendation (Army) (previously called the Meritorious Service Unit Plaque) is awarded to units for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services for at least 6 continuous months during the period of military operations against an armed enemy occurring on or after 1 January 1944. Service in a combat zone is not required, but must be directly related to the combat effort. Units based in Continental United States are excluded from this award, as are other units outside the area of operation.

(1) The unit must display such outstanding devotion and superior performance of exceptionally difficult tasks as to set it apart and above other units with similar missions. The degree of achievement required is the same as that which would warrant award of the Legion of Merit to an individual. Recommendations for units larger than a brigade will not be submitted.

(2) Effective 1 March 1961, the Meritorious Unit Commendation was authorized for units and/or detachments of the Armed Forces of the United States for exceptionally meritorious conduct in performance of outstanding services for at least 6 continuous months in support of military operations. Service(s), as used in this paragraph, is interpreted to relate to combat service support type activities and not to the type of activities performed by senior headquarters, combat, or combat support units.

2. Department of the Army Pamphlet 672-3, in effect at the time, shows 2d Battalion, 319th Artillery was awarded the:

a. Valorous Unit Award for the period 13 June 1968 to 23 September 1968, by Department of the Army General Orders (DAGO) Number 52, dated 1974, a period he was not assigned to this unit. DAGO 52 also awarded the Valorous Unit Award to 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry and its attached units for the period 13 June 1968 to 23 September 1968. However he was not assigned to this unit during this period.

b. Meritorious Unit Commendation for the period 14 March 1968 to 3 October 1968, by DAGO Number 22, dated 1976, a period he was not assigned to this unit. DAGO

Number 22 awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation to the 3D Brigade, 101st Airborne Division and its assigned and attached units for the period 14 March 1968 to 3 October 1968. He was not assigned to this unit during this time period.

3. DAGO 51, dated 19 November 1971, awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation to U.S. Army Special Security Detachment, 101st Airborne Division, for the period 1 November 1968 to 30 June 1970. He was not assigned to this unit during this period.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//