

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 29 August 2024

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240000050

APPLICANT REQUESTS: in effect, correction of his DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) to show his:

- deployment to Kuwait from 26 January to 1 August 2020
- award of the Army Commendation Medal

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- Orders: LS-010-0009, Installation Management Command, 10 January 2020
- Orders: LS-010-0009 (A2), Installation Management Command, 25 February 2020
- DA Form 638 (Recommendation for Award), 25 June 2020
- DA Form 4980-14 (Army Commendation Medal)
- DD Form 214

FACTS:

1. The Board will not consider award of the Army Commendation Medal as this will be addressed through an administrative correction.
2. The applicant states, in effect, since his deployment was not listed on his Enlisted Record Brief, it was not included on his DD Form 214. He deployed to Kuwait on 26 January 2020, and returned to Fort Lewis, WA, on 1 August 2020. He claims the 13th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion failed to update his records for the deployment and award.
3. The applicant enlisted in the Regular Army (RA) on 29 September 2015. He served in military occupational specialty 91B (Wheeled Vehicle Mechanic).
4. A DA Form 1059 (Service School Academic Evaluation Report) shows he successfully completed the Basic Leader Course on 12 April 2019. He was subsequently promoted to sergeant (SGT)/E-5 on 1 October 2019.

5. The applicant provides:

a. Deployment orders to Kuwait proceeding on or about 18 January 2020, not to exceed 44 days and an amended order not to exceed 197 days.

b. An Army Commendation Medal certificate, which shows Permanent Order # 20-175-040, dated 23 June 2020, awarded him the Army Commendation Medal for exceptionally meritorious service as a motor sergeant during Operation Spartan Shield from 26 January to 1 August 2020 (a period of 6 months and 7 days).

6. On 17 July 2021, he was honorably released from active duty upon the completion of his required active service. The DD Form 214 he was issued does not list his deployment in block 18 (Remarks) and block 12f (Foreign Service) does not indicate foreign service. The form further shows he was awarded or authorized the:

- Army Achievement Medal (3rd Award)
- Army Good Conduct Medal
- National Defense Service Medal
- Army Service Ribbon
- Driver and Mechanic Badge with Mechanic and Driver Wheeled Vehicle clasps

7. During the processing of this case, the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) reviewed his Master Military Pay Account. DFAS verified his deployed service in Kuwait from 26 January 2020 to 27 July 2020 (a period of 6 months and 2 days). Note: DFAS only verifies receipt of hostile fire/imminent danger pay. DFAS does not verify inclusive dates of deployed service or deployment locations beyond the first qualifying country (e.g., Kuwait versus Iraq). DFAS pay records are not considered "source documents," but may be considered as supporting documents leading to a preponderance of the evidence. A second source document is required.

8. Army Regulation 635-8 (Separation and Processing and Documents), establishes the standardized policy for preparing and distributing the DD Form 214. Chapter 5 contains guidance on the preparation of the DD Form 214, to include entering awards, training, foreign service, and remarks pertaining to deployment locations and through dates.

BOARD DISCUSSION:

After reviewing the application and all supporting documents, the Board determined relief was warranted. Based upon the DFAS verification showing the applicant was deployed from 26 January 2020 to 27 July 2020, to Kuwait and there is no annotated of foreign service on the applicant's DD Form 214, the Board concluded there was an error or injustice warranting a correction to the applicant's 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 Board determined the evidence presented is sufficient to warrant a recommendation for relief. As a result, the Board recommends that all Department of Army records of the individual concerned be corrected by amending the applicant's DD Form 214 by:

- Changing block 12f (FOREIGN SERVICE) to reflect: 0000 06 02
- Adding the statement "Service in Kuwait from 20200126 – 20200727" in block 18 (REMARKS)

3/6/2025

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): make the following administrative corrections to the applicant's DD Form 214 for the period ending on 17 July 2021 without action by the Board; add to block 13 (Decorations, Medals, Badges, Citations and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized) the –

- Army Commendation Medal
- Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon

REFERENCES:

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

a. The Army Commendation Medal may be awarded to any member of the Armed Forces of the United States who, while serving in any capacity with the Army after 6 December 1941, distinguishes himself or herself by heroism, meritorious achievement, or meritorious service. As with all personal decorations, formal recommendations, approval through the chain of command, and announcement in orders are required.

b. The Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon is awarded to RA, Army National Guard, and U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers for successful completion of designated Noncommissioned Officer professional development courses.

2. Army Regulation 635-8, establishes the standardized policy for preparing and distributing the DD Form 214. Chapter 5 contains guidance on the preparation of the DD Form 214, to include entering foreign service and remarks pertaining to deployment locations and through dates. This regulation requires the following entries:

a. In block 12f enter the total amount of service performed outside the Continental United States (OCONUS) during the period covered by the DD Form 214, to include deployments. List periods of deployed service in block 18.

b. In block 18, for an active duty Soldier, list any/all OCONUS deployments completed during the period of the DD Form 214 being created, the statement "Service in (Name of Country Deployed) From (inclusive dates)."

3. Army Regulation 15-185 prescribes the policies and procedures for correction of military records by the Secretary of the Army, acting through the ABCMR. The ABCMR considers individual applications that are properly brought before it. The ABCMR will decide cases on the evidence of record. It is not an investigative body. The ABCMR begins its consideration of each case with the presumption of administrative regularity.

The applicant has the burden of proving an error or injustice by a preponderance of the evidence.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//