

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 25 October 2024

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240000235

APPLICANT REQUESTS: correction of his DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) to show award of the Master Army Aviator Badge.

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- Self-Authored Note
- DA Form 4037 (Individual Record Brief)
- DA Form 759 (Individual Flight Record and Flight Certificate – Army)
- Army Regulation (AR) 600-105 (Aviation Service of Rated Army Officers), Table 2-5
- DD Form 214, for the period ending 31 July 1980

FACTS:

1. The applicant did not file within the 3-year time frame provided in Title 10, U.S. Code (USC), 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 when he retired in 1980, the requirement for Master Army Aviator Wings was certain qualifications plus 3000 hours and he met all the qualifications but had 2901 hours. After his retirement, according to AR 600-105, the hourly requirement changed to 2000 hours for Master Army Aviator Wings; being retired should not disqualify him from achieving this accomplishment, he fully met the requirements and requests that he be awarded Master Army Aviator Wings based on his record. He considers himself somewhat of a pioneer in Army Aviation; as a second lieutenant he was assigned to the Airborne and Avionics Board wherein he was the first UH1A pilot in which anyone repelled from, static jumped from, and skydived from. He participated in the House Board, served three tours in Vietnam and was the Chief of Programs and Business Manager of the CH-47D Development Program; plus, due to lack of aircraft availability he was exempted from flight schools, Army Staff, etcetera.

3. A review of the applicant's service record confirms an administrative entry was omitted from his DD Form 214. The entry will be added to his DD Form 214 as an administrative correction and will not be considered by the Board. The Board will consider his request for the award of the Master Army Aviator Badge.

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

a. He was appointed as a commissioned officer on 29 April 1960 in area of concentration 71A (Aviation Material Management Officer).

b. DA Form 2-1 (Personnel Qualification Record – Part II), dated 25 April 1978, shows the applicant in Section II (Classification and Assignment Data) was rated as an Army Aviator on 26 May 1961 and as a Senior Army Aviator at a later date. It also shows in item 9 (Awards, Decorations and Campaigns) he was authorized the following:

- Army Aviator Badge
- Senior Army Aviator Badge
- Parachutist Badge
- Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal
- Air Medal (16 Oak Leaf Cluster (OLC))
- National Defense Service Medal
- Vietnam Campaign Medal
- Army Commendation Medal
- Armed Forces Honor Medal First Class
- Bronze Star Medal (1 OLC)
- Meritorious Service Medal
- General Staff Identification Badge
- Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation
- Republic of Vietnam Civil Actions Honor Medal First Class
- Six Overseas Service Bars
- Marksman Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (Carbine)
- Sharpshooter Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-16)
- Expert Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Pistol Bar (.45 Cal)

c. Two DA Forms 759 for the period covered May 1978 through September 1979 show in section I (Summary of Pilot Experience) 2901 total hours of single engine and multi engine flight hours and 751 hours of single engine combat time.

d. DD Form 214, for the period ending 31 July 1980, shows he completed 20 years, 3 months, and 2 days of active service. It also shows 2 years, 10 months and 16 days of foreign service and he was awarded or authorized the following:

- Army Aviator Badge
- Senior Army Aviator Badge
- Parachutist Badge
- Armed Forces Honor Medal
- Air Medal (16 Oak Leaf Cluster (OLC))
- National Defense Service Medal
- Vietnam Campaign Medal
- Army Commendation Medal (1OLC)
- Bronze Star Medal (1 OLC)
- Meritorious Service Medal
- General Staff Identification Badge
- Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation
- Republic of Vietnam Civil Actions Honor Medal First Class Unit Citation
- Six Overseas Service Bars

e. The available service record is void of any documentation awarding the applicant the Master Army Aviator Badge.

5. The applicant provides:

a. A self-authored note that states that he is 86 years old and there is nothing that would please him more than to have the title of Master for the trade that he dedicated his career to.

b. DA Form 4037 (Individual Record Brief) listed in Section VIII (Awards and Decorations) awarded or authorized at the time the brief is dated the same awards identified on his previously mentioned DD Form 214 with the exception of:

- Vietnam Service Medal (seven bronze service stars)
- Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal

c. DA Form 759 for the period covered October 1977 through April 1978 shows in section I (Summary of Pilot Experience) 2901 total hours of single engine and multi engine flight hours and 751 hours of single engine combat time.

d. AR 600-105, Table 2-5 (Eligibility Requirements for Aeronautical Ratings), dated

5 June 2020, that details and define the levels of aeronautical ratings to include the basic requirements for the Master Army Aviator Badge.

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 review based on law, policy, and regulation. The regulatory guidance outlines to be to be awarded the Master Aviation Badge a member must have 3000 hours in aircraft for the Master Aviator Badge. The Board noted the applicant's provided flight records; however, was unable to determine that the amount of hours exceeded the 3000 threshold for the award. The Board was unable to verify the applicant's eligibility for the award and denied relief.
2. Prior to closing the discussion, the Board reviewed and concurred with the analyst of record's administrative note below to add the additional awards 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 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.



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):

A review of the applicant's service record shows his DD Form 214 omitted administrative entries, as a result, amend the DD Form 214 by adding in item 13:

- one silver service star and three bronze service stars to the Vietnam Service Medal
- Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal

REFERENCES:

1. Title 10, USC, 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. AR 600-8-22 (Military Awards) in effect at the time states to be awarded the Master Aviation Badge a member must have 3000 hours in aircraft or 15 years from the basic rating for the Master Aviator Badge. Permanent award of the Basic Aviation Badge to an individual who has participated in at least 15 combat missions under probable exposure to enemy fire while performing in-flight duties. The eligibility criteria for U.S. officers must have attained an aeronautical rating of Army aviator, senior Army aviator, or master Army aviator as prescribed in AR 600-105. Award date of the Senior and Master Army Aviator badges are computed from the date the officer was awarded the Basic Army Aviator Badge. The three degrees of the aviator badges authorized for award are:

- Basic Army Aviator Badge
- Senior Army Aviator Badge
- Master Army Aviator Badge

3. AR 600-105 (Aviation Service of Rated Army Officers) states set policies, responsibilities, and processes for qualifying, disqualifying, and re-qualifying officers for aviation service. It contains policies pertaining to establishing and adjusting aviation service entry dates as well as awarding Army aeronautical ratings. Table 2-1 states to be rated as a Master Army Aviator a member must have at least 15 years rated aviation service of which 12 years must be as an Army aviator. At least 3000 hours of flying time; or at least 108 months of awarded the Total Operational Flying Duty Credit.

4. AR 635-5 (Separation Documents) in effect at the time states to list awards and decorations for all periods of service in the priority sequence specified in AR 600-8-22. AR 600-8-22 gives the order of precedence for awards and decorations. Only decorations, medals, and ribbons are listed. Certificates of achievement, letters of appreciation, and similar documents are not listed.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//