

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 1 August 2024

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240000528

APPLICANT REQUESTS: correction of his DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) to show the Defense Meritorious Service Medal.

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- Certificate for award of the Defense Meritorious Service Medal
- Letter from the National Personnel Records Center

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 was awarded the Defense Meritorious Service Medal on his retirement. It was awarded on March 10, 1986. He found the certificate but no orders. The award was awarded upon his retirement and for meritorious service at the Joint Deployment Agency.
3. Review of the applicant's service records shows:
  - a. Having had prior enlisted service (27 July 1965 to 15 October 1969), the applicant was appointed a Reserve commissioned officer of the Army on 16 October 1969.
  - b. He served in a variety of stateside or overseas assignments, including two yours in Vietnam and two tours in Germany, and he attained the rank of major.
  - c. On 22 June 1983, he was assigned to the U.S. Army Element, Joint Deployment Agency, MacDill Air Force Base, FL, in the Deployment Operations Division.

d. He retired on 31 December 1985, and he was placed on the retire list in his retired grade of MAJ on 1 January 1986, with over 20 years and 5 months of active service. His DD Form 214 does not list the Defense Meritorious Service Medal as an authorized award.

e. His service record does not contain orders for award of the Defense Meritorious Service Medal. Additionally, neither his DA Form 2-1 (Personnel Qualification Record) nor his Officer Record Brief lists this award as an authorized award.

f. He provides a certificate, dated 10 March 1986, reflective of award of the Defense Meritorious Service Medal for exceptionally meritorious service to the United States of America, from 4 June 1983 to 31 December 1985.

#### BOARD DISCUSSION:

After reviewing the application, all supporting documents, and the evidence found within the military record, the Board found that relief was warranted. The applicant's contentions, the military record, and regulatory guidance were carefully considered. The Board noted that the applicant's service record does not contain orders for award of the Defense Meritorious Service Medal. Additionally, neither his DA Form 2-1 (Personnel Qualification Record) nor his Officer Record Brief lists this award as an authorized award. However, he provides a certificate, dated 10 March 1986, reflective of award of the Defense Meritorious Service Medal for exceptionally meritorious service to the United States of America, from 4 June 1983 to 31 December 1985. Given he was assigned to the U.S. Army Element, Joint Deployment Agency, MacDill Air Force Base, FL, in the Deployment Operations Division, during the period covered by this award, the Board determined there is sufficient evidence to support adding it to his 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 partial relief. As a result, the Board recommends that all Department of the Army records of the individual concerned be corrected by adding to his DD Form 214: Defense Meritorious Service Medal.

8/1/2024

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.

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 600-8-22 (Military Awards) states the Defense Meritorious Service Medal was established by EO 12019, 3 November 1977. It is awarded in the name of the Secretary of Defense to Servicemembers of the Armed Forces of the United States who, after 3 November 1977, distinguished themselves by noncombat meritorious

achievement or service. The Defense Meritorious Service Medal will not be used to recognize meritorious service or achievement under combat conditions. The prescribing directive, including processing instructions and approval authorities, for the Defense Meritorious Service Medal is DoDM 1348.33, Volume 4.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//