

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 24 September 2024

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240000579

APPLICANT REQUESTS: correction of his DD Form 214 (Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge) to show:

- Army Good Conduct Medal (1st Award)
- Expert Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-14).

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- DD Form 214
- General Orders Number 27, 4 September 1969
- Special Orders 41, 10 February 1968

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 asking for these corrections so that his DD Form 214 accurately reflects his U.S. Army service. In support of his request, he supplies orders for the awards; the orders awarding the Expert Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-14) are Special Orders Number 41, dated 10 February 1968.
3. A review of the applicant's service records shows the following;
 - a. On 7 December 1967, the Army of the United States (AUS) inducted the applicant for a 2-year term of active duty service. Upon completion of initial entry training and the award of military occupational specialty 11D (Armor Intelligence Specialist) at Fort Knox, KY, orders assigned him as a drill sergeant to a Fort Knox training company; he arrived at his new unit, on 26 April 1968.

b. The applicant's DA Form 20 (Enlisted Qualification Record) shows the following entries:

- Item 29 (Qualification in Arms) – on 29 January 1967, the applicant renewed his weapons qualification for the M-14 and achieved "SS" (Sharpshooter) with a score of "54"
- Item 41 (Awards and Decorations) – Special Orders Number 90 awarded him the Sharpshooter Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-14); the unit issued the badge to the applicant

c. Special Orders Number 41, issued by Headquarters, U.S. Army Training Center, Fort Lewis, WA on 10 February 1968 awarded him the Expert Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-14).

d. General Orders Number 27 dated 4 September 1969 awarded the applicant the Army Good Conduct Medal (1st Award).

e. On 8 September 1969, based on an early release policy, the AUS honorably released the applicant from active duty and transferred him to the U.S. Army Reserve to complete his remaining service obligation. His DD Form 214 indicates he completed 1 year, 9 months, and 2 days of net active duty service. Item 24 (Decorations, Medals, Badges, Commendations, Citations, and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized) lists the following:

- National Defense Service Medal
- Sharpshooter Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-14).

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.

a. Army Good Conduct Medal: Grant. General orders awarded the applicant the Army Good Conduct Medal. This award is not shown on his DD Form 214. It should be.

b. Expert Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-14): Grant. The evidence shows the applicant initially qualified sharpshooter with the M-14 rifle in 1967. However, Special Orders issued in 1969 show he qualified expert with this weapon system. Therefore, the Board determined his DD Form 214 should reflect an expert a marksmanship badge.

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 the Army records of the individual concerned be corrected by:

- Deleting Sharpshooter Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle M-14 Bar
- Adding Army Good Conduct (1st Award) and Expert Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle M-14 Bar

■

■ ■

■

■

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 (AR) 622-5 (Qualification and Familiarization), in effect at the time, prescribed policies and procedures for weapons qualification and familiarization. Paragraph 3d (Qualification) stated, "Individuals retain their prior qualification with an individual or crew-served weapon until they have completed a later qualification course with that weapon."

3. Army Regulation (AR) 600-200 (Enlisted Personnel Management System), in effect at the time, prescribed policies and procedures for the management of enlisted Soldiers. Included were instructions on the completion of the DA Form 20 (Enlisted Qualification Record).

a. Paragraph 9-42 (Qualification in Arms (item 29). Entries will be made in pencil to reflect each weapon fired and the most recent completion of qualification and familiarization firing as prescribed by AR 622-5.

b. Paragraph 9-54 (Awards and Decorations). Weapons qualification badges will be entered in pencil and reflect the orders that authorize the badge. Enter "Yes" if the badge was issued to the Soldier.

4. AR 635-5 (Separation Documents), in effect at the time, prescribed policies and procedures for the completion of the DD Form 214 (Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge). Concerning item 24 (Decorations, Medals, Badges, Commendations, Citations, and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized), the regulation required DD Form 214 preparers to refer to the Soldier's DA Form 20 for awards entries.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//