

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 20 September 2024

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240001078

APPLICANT REQUESTS: reconsideration of his prior request for award of the Air Medal.

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- DD Form 214 (Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge)
- Army Board for Correction of Military Records (ABCMR) Letter, 23 June 2000
- Record of Proceedings, Docket Number AR1999028885, 8 June 2000
- Department of Veterans Affairs Letter, 17 July 2013
- Department of Veterans Affairs Rating Decision Letter, 8 July 2013

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 AR1999028885 on 8 June 2000.

2. The applicant states he was authorized to receive the Air Medal. He sent a lot of letters and applications and nothing was changed.

3. The applicant provides:

a. Docket Number AR1999028885, dated 8 June 2000, which shows in part in, conclusions, number 4 "the available records also show that the applicant was authorized the Air Medal, however his DD Form 214 was not amended to show the award."

b. Department of Veterans Affairs Rating Decision letter, 8 July 2013, which shows he was awarded a 100 percent evaluation effective 22 March 2011. The medical description shows ischemic heart disease with scar status post myocardial infarction, congestive heart failure, coronary artery bypass graft and mitral valve annuloplasty (claimed as any heart condition) associated with herbicide exposure.

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

a. On 4 June 1968, the applicant was inducted into the Army of the United States. He completed training and he was awarded military occupational specialty (MOS) 67V (Helicopter Repairmen).

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

(1) item 31 (Foreign Service) service in Vietnam from 16 October 1968 to 5 January 1970 (five campaigns).

(2) item 38 (Record of Assignments) while in Vietnam he was assigned to the following units:

- Company B, 15th Transportation Corps Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division, from 31 October 1968 to 18 October 1969
- 98th Transportation Detachment, 1st Cavalry Division, from 19 October 1969 to 3 January 1970

(3) item 43 (Awards and Decorations) –

- National Defense Service Medal
- Aircraft Crewman Badge
- Vietnam Service Medal
- One overseas bar
- Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960)
- Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation
- Expert Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-16)
- Expert Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-14)

c. On 6 January 1970, he was honorably released from active duty. He completed 1 year, 7 months and 3 days of active service. His DD Form 214 shows:

(1) he was awarded or authorized: National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, and the Aircraft Crewman Badge.

(2) Item 18 (Remarks) – has administrative entries but not his service in Vietnam.

d. On 8 June 2000, in Docket Number AR1999028885, the applicant's request was denied. The Board stated there is no evidence in the applicant's record nor has he provided any evidence to support his claim for the Air Medal.

e. On 23 June 2008, he was issued a DD Form 215 (Correction to DD Form 214) that deleted the Vietnam Campaign Medal, and added:

- Army Good Conduct Medal
- Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960)
- Expert Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar

5. A review of the applicant's record confirms he is eligible for awards that are not recorded on his DD Form 214. These awards will be added to his DD Form 214 as administrative corrections and will not be considered by the Board.

6. A review of the Awards and Decorations Computer-Assisted Retrieval System (ADCARS), an index of general orders issued during the Vietnam era between 1965 and 1973 maintained by the Military Awards Branch of the U.S. Army Human Resources Command, failed to reveal any orders for the Air Medal pertaining to the applicant.

7. By regulation (AR 600-8-22), the Air Medal is awarded in time of war for heroism and for meritorious achievement or service while participating in aerial flight. This award is primarily intended for personnel on flying status but may also be awarded to those personnel whose combat duties require them to fly; for example, personnel in the attack elements of units involved in air-land assaults against an armed enemy. As with all personal decorations, formal recommendations, approval through the chain of command, and an announcement in orders are required.

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 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 evidence of record shows the applicant served on active duty between 4 June 1968 to 6 January 1970, with service in Vietnam from 26 October 1968 to 5 January 1970. The applicant requested award of the Air Medal; however, his record is void and he did not provide evidence to support which category of missions completed or hours flown. Therefore, the Board was unable to verify eligibility.

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 amendment of the ABCMR decision rendered in Docket Number AR1999028885 on 8 June 2000.

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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 records show he is authorized an additional award not annotated on his DD Form 214. As a result, amend his DD Form 214 by adding the following:

- Valorous Unit Award
- Meritorious Unit Commendation
- Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation (2nd Award)
- Republic of Vietnam Civil Action Honor Medal First Class Unit Citation
- one silver star with his already awarded Vietnam Service Medal
- Block 30 (Remarks) "Service in Vietnam from 19681016 to 19700105."

REFERENCES:

1. Army Regulation (AR) 15-185 (Army Board for Correction of Military Records) prescribes the policies and procedures for correction of military records by the Secretary of the Army acting through the ABCMR. 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.

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

a. The Air Medal is awarded in time of war for heroism and for meritorious achievement or service while participating in aerial flight. This award is primarily intended for personnel on flying status but may also be awarded to those personnel whose combat duties require them to fly; for example, personnel in the attack elements of units involved in air-land assaults against an armed enemy. As with all personal decorations, formal recommendations, approval through the chain of command, and an announcement in orders are required.

b. A bronze service star is worn on the appropriate service ribbon, to include the Vietnam Service Medal, for each credited campaign. A silver service star is authorized in lieu of five bronze service stars.

c. The qualification badge is awarded to indicate the degree – Expert, Sharpshooter, and Marksman -- in which an individual has qualified in a prescribed record course. An appropriate bar is furnished to denote each weapon with which the individual has qualified.

3. U.S. Army Vietnam (USARV) Regulation 672-1 (Decorations and Awards) provided guidelines for award of the Air Medal. It stated passenger personnel who did not participate in an air assault were not eligible for the award based upon sustained operations. It defined terms and provided guidelines for the award based upon the number and types of missions or hours. Twenty-five Category I missions (air assault and equally dangerous missions) and accrual of a minimum of 25 hours of flight time while engaged in Category I missions was the standard established for which sustained operations were deemed worthy of recognition by an award of the Air Medal. However, the regulation was clear that these guidelines were considered only a departure point.

a. Combat missions were divided into three categories. A category I mission was defined as a mission performed in an assault role in which a hostile force was engaged and was characterized by the delivery of ordnance against the hostile force or delivery of friendly troops or supplies into the immediate combat operations area. A category II mission was characterized by support rendered a friendly force immediately before,

during, or immediately following a combat operation. A category III mission was characterized by support of friendly forces not connected with an immediate combat operation, but which must have been accomplished at altitudes which made the aircraft at times vulnerable to small arms fire or under hazardous weather or terrain conditions.

b. To be recommended for award of the Air Medal, an individual must have completed a minimum of 25 category I missions, 50 category II missions, or 100 category III missions. Since various types of missions would have been completed in accumulating flight time toward award of an Air Medal for sustained operations, different computations would have had to be made to combine category I, II, and III flight times and adjust it to a common denominator.

c. Appendix IV required that recommendations for award of the Air Medal for crewmembers or non-crewmembers on flying status would be submitted on USARV Form 157-R. The recommendation for award must also have stated that the individual "met the required number of missions and hours for award of the Air Medal"; that "the individual has not caused, either directly or indirectly, an aircraft abort, late take-off, accident or incident"; and that the "individual's accomplishments and service throughout the period have reflected meritorious performance, with no instance of non-professionalism, mediocrity, or failure to display an aggressive spirit."

4. Army Regulation 635-5 (Separation Documents), prescribed the separation documents that would be furnished each individual who was separated from the Army including Active-Duty Training personnel and established standardized procedures for the preparation and distribution of these documents. All available records would be used as a basis for the preparation of the DD Form 214, including DA Form 20, DA Form 66, and orders. Army Regulation 635-5 (Separation Documents), in effect at the time (effective 23 January 1967), states the DD Form 214 is a summary of the Soldier's most recent period of continuous active duty.

5. Army Regulation 635-5, dated 4 February 1972, states, effective 15 March 1972 Army Regulation 635-5, dated 23 January 1967 is changed as follows: Indicate Indochina and Korea service on or after 5 August 1964 by entering inclusive dates of service for Vietnam and indicating "yes" or "no" for service in Indochina and Korea.

6. Department of the Army Pamphlet 672-3 (Unit Citation and Campaign Participation Credit Register) lists the awards received by units serving in Vietnam. This pamphlet shows the 15th Transportation Battalion, to which the applicant was assigned was cited for the below awards for service in the Republic of Vietnam:

a. Meritorious Unit Citation for the period 1 June 1968 to 30 November 1969, Department of the Army General Order (DAGO) Number 2, 1971.

b. The Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation with Palm for the period 9 August 1965 to 19 May 1969, DAGO Number 42, 1972; and 1 September 1969 to February 1970, DAGO 11, 1973.

c. Republic of Vietnam Civil Actions Honor Medal First Class for the period 1 January 1969 to 1 February 1970, DAGO 42, 1972.

d. Valorous Unit Award for the period 1 October to 31 December 1969, DAGO 32, 1973.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//