

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 15 October 2024

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240001959

APPLICANT REQUESTS: correction of his DD Form 214 (Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge), ending on 14 November 1968, to add the Army Commendation Medal.

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- Army Commendation Medal Citation
- Army Commendation Certificate
- Picture Photocopy
- DD Form 214, for the period ending 14 November 1968

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 he requests to have his DD Form 214 corrected to reflect that he received an Army Commendation Medal for his service in Vietnam. He says the correction should be made to reflect the value of his service during his tour of duty in Vietnam. His family has a history of service that includes ancestors that served in the American Revolutionary War and Civil War to include with his wife's father and two of his uncles served with distinction in World War II. He also had an uncle who was a prisoner of war after being captured at the Battle of the Bulge. He did notice at separation that his DD Form 214 was missing the award but was advised by another former member of the military that it would be a waste of time to try and get this omission corrected. However, he feels it is important to his family history to have his DD Form 214 corrected and this may in the future inspire one of his descendants to volunteer for military service.

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

a. He enlisted in the Regular Army on 15 November 1965 for three years.

b. DA Form 20 (Enlisted Qualification Record) indicates in block 31 (Foreign Service) he served in Vietnam from 8 August 1966 to 6 August 1967 and his tour of duty included two Republic of Vietnam Campaigns. It also shows in block 41 (Awards and Decorations) that he was awarded or authorized:

- National Defense Service Medal
- Vietnam Service Medal
- Vietnam Campaign Medal
- Two overseas service bars
- Army Good Conduct Medal (1st Award)
- Marksman Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-14)

c. On 14 November 1968, he was honorably released from active duty. DD Form 214 shows he completed 3 years of total active service this period. It also shows he was awarded or authorized: National Defense Service Medal; Vietnam Service Medal with two bronze service stars; Vietnam Campaign Medal; and Army Good Conduct Medal.

d. The available service record is void of any further documentation showing the applicant was awarded the Army Commendation Medal.

4. The applicant provides:

a. Army Commendation Medal Citation detailing his performance while serving in the Republic of Vietnam for the period of August 1966 to August 1967.

b. An Army Commendation Medal Certificate dated 25 August 1967, for meritorious service in the Republic of Vietnam during the period of August 1966 to August 1967; however, the certificate does not include a permanent order number authorizing the award.

c. A picture photocopy of two servicemembers shaking hands.

5. A review of the Awards and Decorations Computer Assisted Retrieval System maintained by the U.S. Army Human Resources Command, failed to reveal any orders for the Army Commendation Medal pertaining to the applicant.

#### BOARD DISCUSSION:

1. 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.

Award of the Army Commendation Medal requires a formal recommendation, approval through the chain of command, and announcement in orders. There are no orders that confirm his award. However, he provides an Army Commendation Medal Certificate and Citation for meritorious service in Vietnam from August 1966 to August 1967. The listed period of service and scope of responsibility are consistent with the applicant's service in Vietnam and other service records. Therefore, the Board accepted the certificate and citation as sufficient evidence to add award of the Army Commendation Medal to his DD Form 214.

2. Prior to closing the case, the Board did note the analyst of record administrative notes below, and recommended the correction is completed to more accurately depict the military service of the applicant.

BOARD VOTE:

Mbr 1      Mbr 2      Mbr 3

■	■	■	GRANT FULL RELIEF
:	:	:	GRANT PARTIAL RELIEF
:	:	:	GRANT FORMAL HEARING
:	:	:	DENY APPLICATION

BOARD DETERMINATION/RECOMMENDATION:

In addition to the correction addressed in Administrative Note(s) below, 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 adding the Army Commendation Medal to his DD Form 214.

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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):

1. A review of the applicant's service record shows his DD Form 214 omitted an administrative entry in item 24 (Decorations, Medals, Badges, Commendations, Citations and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized). As a result, amend the DD Form 214 by adding in item 24:

- Marksman Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-14)
- Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation

2. A review of the records listed below (enclosed) is sufficient to substantiate correction of the DD Form 214 without action by the Board.

- DA Form 20 (Enlisted Qualification Record)
- Department of the Army General Orders Number 8, dated 1974
- Army Regulation 600-8-22 (Military Awards)

3. Please correct the applicant's DD Form 214 by adding the awards/decorations shown in paragraph 1 above. Provide the applicant a copy of the correction, and as applicable the medal. Please ensure that the correction is recorded in the applicant's official military personnel record.

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. Army Regulation (AR) 600-8-22 (Military Awards) states 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.

3. AR 635-5 (Separation Documents – Personnel Separations) in effect at the time prescribes the separation documents that will be furnished each individual who is separated from the Army. Source documents consist of all available records, including DA Form 20, and orders. Item 24; enter from DA Form 20 all decorations, service

medals, campaign credits, and badges awarded or authorized, omitting authorities therein.

4. Department of the Army Pamphlet 672-3 (Unit Citations and Campaign Participation Credit Register) assist commanders and personnel officers in determining or establishing the eligibility of individual members for campaign participation credit, assault landing credit, and unit citation badges awarded during the Vietnam Conflict. Department of the Army General Orders (DAGO) Number 8, dated 1974, awarded the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation with Palm to Headquarters, United States Army Vietnam, for service in Vietnam for the period of 20 July 1965 to 28 March 1973.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//