

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 20 November 2024

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240002345

APPLICANT REQUESTS: award of the Combat Infantryman Badge.

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- Combat Leadership Noncommissioned Officer (NCO) Course Certificate
- DD Form 214 (Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge)

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 earned the Combat Infantryman Badge due to his completion of the combat leadership NCO course, his service with the 3rd Battalion, 8th Infantry Battalion, 4th Infantry Division, and his service near the Cambodian border at II Corps Headquarters, Camp Enari, Pleiku, Republic of Vietnam. The applicant marked post-traumatic stress disorder and other mental health issues on his DD Form 149 as conditions related to his request.
3. The applicant provides the above listed documents to be referenced in the service record.
4. A review of the applicant's service record shows:
 - a. He was inducted into the Army of the United States on 18 March 1968.
 - b. His DA Form 20 (Enlisted Qualification Record) shows he served in Vietnam from 11 August 1968 to 13 May 1969. He was assigned in Vietnam to Company B, 3d Battalion, 8th Infantry, 4th Infantry Division as an 11B, Light Weapons Infantryman. Block 41 (Awards and Decorations) shows:

- National Defense Service Medal
- Overseas Service Bar
- Vietnam Service Medal

d. Special Orders (SO) Number 118, dated 9 May 1968 awarded the applicant the Sharpshooter Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-14).

e. SO Number 150, dated 12 June 1968 awarded the applicant the Sharpshooter Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-16).

f. SO Number 156, dated 19 June 1968 awarded the applicant the First Class Gunner Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-60).

g. The available service record is void of orders for award of the Combat Infantryman Badge.

h. He was honorably released from active duty on 17 March 1970. His DD Form 214 shows he completed 2 years of total active service. It also shows he was awarded or authorized:

- National Defense Service Medal
- Vietnam Service Medal
- Vietnam Campaign Medal
- Overseas Service Bar
- Good Conduct Medal

5. On 2 August 2024, the Case Management Division, Army Review Boards Agency (ARBA), sent the applicant an e-mail requesting medical documentation related to his contention of PTSD and other mental health issues. The applicant responded on 30 August 2024 that he made a mistake when he checked the PTSD and other mental health boxes in Block 14 of his DD Form 149. He further stated he received notification of his combat infantryman badge award in the field while in Vietnam, and all he wants now is the Combat Infantryman Badge added to his DD Form 214.

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

7. By regulation (AR 600-8-22), the Combat Infantryman Badge is awarded to infantry officers and to enlisted and warrant officer persons who have an infantry military occupational specialty (MOS). They must have served in active ground combat while assigned or attached to an infantry unit of brigade, regimental or smaller size.

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 request and executed a comprehensive and standard review based on law, policy and regulation. One potential outcome was to grant relief based on the applicant served in Vietnam from 11 August 1968 to 13 May 1969 and was assigned to Company B, 3rd Battalion, 8th Infantry, 4th Infantry Division as an 11B, Light Weapons Infantryman. However, upon review of the applicant's request and available military records, the Board determined the applicant did not meet the regulatory guidance criteria to be awarded the combat infantryman badge. Based on this, the Board denied relief.

2. The Board noted per regulatory guidance, the applicant did not provide sufficient evidence to support he served in active ground combat while assigned or attached to his infantry unit. However, 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:

Except for the correction addressed in Administrative Note(s) below, the Board found 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 records show he is authorized campaign credits and additional awards not annotated on his DD Form 214. As a result, amend his DD Form 214 to show:

- Sharpshooter Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-14)
- Sharpshooter Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-16)
- First Class Gunner Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-60)
- Meritorious Unit Commendation
- Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation
- Republic of Vietnam Civil Actions Honor Medal, First Class
- three bronze service stars with his previously issued Vietnam Service Medal

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) provides Army policy, criteria, and administrative instructions concerning individual military decorations. The Combat Infantryman Badge is awarded to infantry officers and to enlisted and warrant officer persons who have an infantry military occupational specialty (MOS). They must have served in active ground combat while assigned or attached to an infantry unit of brigade, regimental or smaller size. Additionally, Appendix V of U.S. Army Vietnam (USARV) Regulation 672-1 states that during the Vietnam era the Combat Infantryman Badge was awarded only to enlisted individuals who held and served in MOS 11B, 11C, 11D, 11F, 11G, or 11H.

3. Department of the Army Pamphlet 672-3 (Unit Citation 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.

a. Department of the Army General Orders (DAGO) Number 3, dated 1970, awarded the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm to 3d Battalion, 8th Infantry, for service in Vietnam for the period of 1 October 1966 to 28 July 1969.

b. DAGO Number 53, dated 1970, awarded the Republic of Vietnam Civil Actions Honor Medal, FC (First Class) to 3d Battalion, 8th Infantry, for service in Vietnam for the period of 1 October 1966 to 31 October 1969.

c. DAGO Number 37, dated 1970 and DAGO Number 51, dated 1971, awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation to 4th Infantry Division, for service in Vietnam for the period of 1 September 1967 to 31 October 1968 and 1 November 1968 to 30 June 1970.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//