

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 1 November 2024

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240002406

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

- a. block 3a (Grade, Rate, or Rank) - to show his correct rank and grade (he does not indicate what he believes to be the correct rank/grade).
- b. block 12 (Last Duty Assignment and Major Command) - to show he was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division.
- c. block 25a (Specialty Number and Title) - to show his correct military occupational specialty (MOS) and Title (he does not indicate what he believes to be the correct MOS title).
- d. block 26 (Decorations, Medals, Badges, Commendations, Citations and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized) to add the:
 - Presidential Unit Citation (2nd Award)
 - Valorous Unit Award
 - Meritorious Unit Commendation
 - all unit awards to which he is entitled
 - two combat jumps
 - campaign credit
- e. block 28 (Service Schools or Colleges, College Training Courses and/or Post-Graduate Courses Successfully Completed) to show all his training and reflect his paratrooper status and jump qualifications.
- f. block 30a (Government Life Insurance in Force) - to show "yes."

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Statement in Support of Claim
- Marriage Certificate

- Clinical Record Cover Sheet
- Narrative Summary
- Two Military Pay Vouchers
- Standard Form (SF) 89 (Military History)
- Honorable Discharge Certificate (Army National Guard (ARNG))
- DA Form 1341 (Allotment Authorization)
- SF 519 (Radiographic Report)
- SF 600 (Chronological Record of Medical Care) (6 Pages)
- Certificate of Proficiency (Artillery Radio Maintenance), Course Number 14-64, completed from 27 January through 4 May 1964
- DA Form 8-274 (Medical Condition - Physical Profile Record)
- DA Form 3054 (Elections of Amount, Beneficiary Designation and Settlement Options for Servicemen's Group Life Insurance)
- Congratulatory Message, from the Brigadier General Commanding, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, to members of the brigade (2 Pages)
- Letter of Commendation, from Lieutenant General to General Westmoreland for members of the US 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division and the 2d Republic of Korea Marine Brigade
- After Action Report (Unclassified)
- DD Form 214
- Honorable Discharge Certificate, United States Army Reserve (USAR)
- Progress Notes (29 Pages)
- Radiology Report
- News Article Announcing the Applicant's Wife's Death on 26 December 2006, (Unknown Source)
- Consult Requests (8 Pages)
- Three VA Rating Decisions
- VA Problem Lists (15 Pages)
- Department of Defense (DOD) Military Service Information
- VA Disability Compensation Claim
- My Social Security Earnings Record
- Lineage and Honors, 2nd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment
- Seven Photographs

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 provided several documents to include VA documents belonging to other Soldiers. The Board cannot consider these documents, nor will they be addressed in this Record of Proceedings, because doing so without their express written permission would be a violation of their privacy.

3. The applicant states his DD Form 214 does not show or incorrectly shows his unit was reassigned as an air mobile airborne division in Vietnam, that he made two combat jumps in Vietnam that are not recorded, his complete military training record, his correct rank, and his specialty title. Furthermore, his Life Insurance was checked "No," however, it was corrected on 5 November 1965. He would also like the Board to know he was diagnosed with and suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), which is not annotated on his DD Form 214.

4. In addition to the applicant's stated request, the Board may consider whether the applicant should be awarded the Army Good Conduct Medal.

5. The Board will not consider the applicant's request to reflect jump status by adding the Basic Airborne course or the below awards, as there is sufficient evidence to justify an administrative correction to add this course, and the below unit awards. These items will be addressed in the "Administrative Notes" section of these proceedings.

- two bronze service stars affixed to the Vietnam Service Medal
- Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation
- Presidential Unit Citation (1st Award)
- Valorous Unit Award
- Meritorious Unit Commendation

6. His record contains a DD Form 214 showing the applicant enlisted in in the Army National Guard (ARNG) of South Carolina and he was ordered to initial active duty for training on 7 December 1962. He completed the training requirements, and he was awarded Military specialty number and title, "310.00 Field Communications Crewman." On 6 June 1963, he was released to the ARNG, in pay grade E-2 and returned to his ARNG unit. He completed 6 months and 19 days of net active service during the period covered.

7. On 19 August 1963, he enlisted in the Regular Army, for a period of 3 years, rank/grade Private (PVT)/E-2, airborne unassigned.

8. He provided a Certificate of Proficiency for completion of the "Artillery Radio Maintenance Course Number 14-64, USAAMS, Fort Sill, OK, completed from 27 January to 4 May 1964 (14 weeks), this training is listed on his DD Form 214.

9. His DA Form 20 (Enlisted Qualification Record) includes the following entries and information:

a. block 22 (Military Occupational Specialties) shows:

- ~~Primary MOS (PMOS), 31B2O Artillery Communications Specialist-Field Communications Crewman- 1 May 1964~~
- Secondary MOS (SMOS) 36A1P Field Communications Crewman - 21 August 1967
- PMOS "31B2O Field Radio Mechanic - 8 November 1966

b. block 27 (Military Education), Course Title:

- Field Communication Crewman, MOS 310.00, Fort Jackson, SC, 8 Weeks, 1963
- Artillery Radio Maintenance MOS 313.10, United States Army Artillery and Missile School, 14 Weeks, 1964

c. block 28 (Specialized Training): Basic Airborne, 3 Weeks, 4 October 1963.

d. block 31 (Foreign Service) shows he served in Vietnam from 8 July 1965 to 28 June 1966.

e. block 33 (Appointments and Reductions) shows:

- Private (PVT)/E-2 Permanent (P), 19 August 1963
- Private First Class (PFC)/E-3 (P), 3 January 1964
- PVT/E-2 (P), 21 September 1964
- PFC/E-3 (P), 19 October 1964
- SP4/E-4 Temporary (T), 20 October 1965

f. block 38 (Record of Assignments) shows he received all unknown and excellent conduct and efficiency ratings, except for one instance when he received a "Good" efficiency rating while in a student status. Additionally, he was assigned as follows:

- Radio Mechanic, Headquarters, Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, Fort Campbell, KY from 1 May 1964 to 7 July 1965 (Unit Permanent Change of Station (PCS))
- Radio Mechanic, Headquarters, Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery, United States Army Pacific (USARPAC), Vietnam from 8 July 1965 to 28 June 1966
- Casual Leave Status from 29 June 1966 to 3 July 1966

- On 3 July 1966, he was further assigned to the U.S. Army Personnel Center, Oakland, CA, for separation processing

i. Block 41 (Awards and Decorations) shows the:

- Parachutist Badge
- Vietnam Service Medal
- National Defense Service Medal
- Expert Marksmanship Qualification Badge Rifle (M-16)

10. On 3 July 1966, he was honorably released from active duty and transferred to the USAR (Control Group Reinforcement) after completing 2 years, 10 months, and 15 days of active service, of which, 9 months and 1 day was credited as foreign service. Additionally, his DD Form 214 contains the following entries/information:

a. blocks 3a (Grade, Rate, or Rank) and 3b. (Date of Rank) - SP4/E-4 (T)/20 October 1965

b. block 12 (Last Duty Assignment and Major Command) - Headquarters, Headquarters Battery, 2nd Infantry Battalion, 320th Field Artillery, Vietnam

c. blocks 25a (Specialty Number and Title) and 15b. (Related Civilian Occupation and D.O.T. Number) - 31D2P Artillery Communications Specialist / N/A

d. block 26 (Decorations, Medals, Badges, Commendations, Citations and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized) to add the:

- National Defense Service Medal
- Vietnam Service Medal
- Parachutist Badge
- Expert Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-16)

e. block 28 (Service Schools or Colleges, College Training Courses and/or Post-Graduate Courses Successfully Completed) shows he completed the following courses:

- Fort Jackson, SC - 8 weeks 1963 - Field Communication Crewman
- United States Army Artillery and Missile School - 14 weeks - 1964

f. block 29 (Other Service Schools Successfully Completed) - None

g. block 30a (Government Life Insurance in Force) - "NO"

h. block 32 (Remarks) includes the following entries:

- "SGLI [Servicemembers Group Life Insurance] -- \$10,000"
- "ITEM 3A: PFC E-3 (P) APTD: 19 OCT 1964"

11. The applicant Provided 158 pages of medical records that included clinical records, a narrative summary, reports of medical history, radiographic reports, chronological records of medical care, a physical profile record, progress notes, consult requests, VA Problem lists, a VA Disability Compensation Claim, and three VA Disability Ratings showing he was granted a claim for PTSD. On 5 September 2014, he received a 20% disability rating, for recurrent left shoulder instability (claimed as chronic left shoulder disability with degenerative joint disease and neuropathy). His submissions were provided to the Board in their entirety.

BOARD DISCUSSION:

1. After reviewing the application and all supporting documents, 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. Upon review of the applicant's petition and available military records, the Board determined:

a. His record is absent evidence that shows he was promoted or advanced to a grade/rank beyond specialist (SPC)/E-4 and although the applicant was not specific as to what grade he believed his record should be corrected to, found no supporting evidence to show that it should be anything other than SPC/E-4. The Board denied relief.

b. His record is absent evidence that shows he was assigned or attached to a unit or organization other than Headquarters, Headquarters Battery, 2nd Infantry Battalion, 320th Field Artillery, Vietnam as annotated on his DD Form 214. Therefore, the Board denied relief.

c. The applicant's record shows his military occupational specialty as 31D2P Artillery Communications Specialist. His record is void evidence that shows he was awarded a different military occupational specialty. Additionally, the applicant was not clear as to what military occupational specialty he was requesting his record be changed to. Therefore, the Board denied relief.

d. The applicant's record is void of evidence to substantiate he was recommended for or awarded the Presidential Unit Citation (2nd Award), additional unit awards, two

combat jumps, and additional campaign credit. Therefore, the Board denied relief in excess of the awards addressed in the administrative note below.

e. The applicant's record is void of evidence to substantiate additional training courses be added to his DD Form 214 beyond those courses addressed in the administrative note below.

f. The applicant provided no justification to amend block 30a of his DD Form 214 and the Board determined there was no error or injustice in the processing of this block. The Board determined relief was not warranted.

2. Prior to closing the discussion, the Board concluded the applicant's record was void of any derogatory or disciplinary action that would disqualify him from receiving the Army Good Conduct Medal. As a result, the Board determined this award should be awarded to the applicant and added 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:

1. 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.

2. Prior to closing the discussion, the Board determined the evidence presented is sufficient to warrant partial relief. As a result, the Board recommends that all Department of the Army records of the individual concerned be corrected by amending the applicant's DD Form 214, for the period ending 3 July 1966 by:

- awarding him the Army Good Conduct Medal (First Award) for the qualifying period 19 August 1963 to 3 July 1966
- adding the Army Good Conduct Medal (First Award) 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): a review of the applicant's record found evidence sufficient to amend his DD Form 214 for the period ending 3 July 1966 by adding:

- a. In specialized training: "Fort Benning, 3 Weeks, Basic Airborne, 63."
- b. The following awards:
 - two bronze service stars affixed to the Vietnam Service Medal
 - Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation
 - Presidential Unit Citation
 - Valorous Unit Award
 - Meritorious Unit Commendation

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. AR 600-8-22 provides, in pertinent part, for award of:

a. A bronze service star, based on qualifying service, for each campaign listed in Appendix B of this regulation and states that authorized bronze service stars will be worn on the appropriate service medal. He is entitled to two bronze service stars to be worn on the Vietnam Service Medal. The applicant served during the following two campaigns:

- Defense, 8 March – 24 December 1965
- Counteroffensive, 25 December 1965 – 30 June 1966

b. AR 600-8-22, currently in effect, provides that the Good Conduct Medal is awarded to individuals who distinguish themselves by their conduct, efficiency, and fidelity during a qualifying period of active-duty enlisted service. This period is 3 years except in those cases when the period for the first award ends with the termination of a period of Federal military service. Although there is no automatic entitlement to the Good Conduct Medal, disqualification must be justified. Current practice requires that the commander provide written notice of nonfavorable consideration and permits the individual to respond.

3. AR 672-5-1 (Awards), in effect at the time, stated the Army Good Conduct Medal was awarded for each 3 years of continuous enlisted active Federal military service completed on or after 27 August 1940; for first award only, 1 year served entirely during the period 7 December 1941 to 2 March 1946; and, for the first award only, upon termination of service on or after 27 June 1950 of less than 3 years but more than 1 year. The enlisted person must have had all "excellent" conduct and efficiency ratings. Ratings of "Unknown" for portions of the period under consideration were not disqualifying. Service school efficiency ratings based upon academic proficiency of at least "Good" rendered subsequent to 22 November 1955 were not disqualifying. There must have been no convictions by a court-martial. However, there was no right or entitlement to the medal until the immediate commander made a positive recommendation for its award and until the awarding authority announced the award in general orders.

4. Department of the Army Pamphlet 672-3 (Unit Citation and Campaign Participation Credit Register) lists the unit awards received by units serving in Vietnam. This document shows the unit to which the applicant was assigned [2d Battalion, 320th Artillery], was cited for award of the:

- RVN Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation for the period 20 July 1965 to 28 March 1973, by DAGO 8, dated 1974
- Presidential Unit Citation for the period 2 to 20 June 1966, by Department of the Army General Order (DAGO) 59, dated 1968
- Valorous Unit Award for the period 17 January to 25 March 1966, by DAGO 1, dated 1969
- Meritorious Unit Commendation for the period 29 July 1965 to 1 October 1966, by DAGO 1, dated 1969 amended DAGO 17, dated 1968

5. AR 635-5 (Personnel Separation - Separation Documents), and changes in effect at the time, prescribed the separation documents that will be furnished to each individual who is separated from the Army, and established the standardized procedures for the preparation of these documents. This regulation provided:

a. block 3a (Grade, Rate, or Rank) - For enlisted personnel, enter the grade in which serving at the time of separation, indicating whether permanent (P) or temporary (T).

b. block 12 (Last Duty Assignment and Major Command) - For personnel reassigned on orders to a transfer activity or to a medial holding detachment prior to separation, enter the losing unit of the assignment as shown in the standard name line (SNL) and title of the major command or agency having jurisdiction over the losing unit of assignment as shown in the lead line "Maj Comd/Agcy" of the orders reassigning the individual to the transfer activity or the medical holding unit.

c. blocks 25a (Specialty Number and Title)/25b (Related Civilian Occupation and D.O.T. Number) - Enter the primary MOS code number and title. If a specialty represented by the MOS has a related civilian occupation, enter the appropriate job title and code from the dictionary or occupational titles in block 25b; if not applicable, enter, "N/A."

d. block 26 (Decorations, Medals, Badges, Commendations, Citations and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized) - Enter decorations, etc., awarded or authorized during the period covered by the DD Form 214, from block 41 (Awards and Decorations) of the DA Form 20 (Enlisted Qualification Records), omitting authorities cited therein.

e. block 28 (Service Schools or Colleges, College Training Courses and/or Post-Graduate Courses Successfully Completed) - Enter service schools, including dates and major courses which were successfully completed. This entry also includes military sponsored courses completed in civilian schools and colleges covered during the period covered by the DD Form 214 being prepared.

f. block 30a. (Government Life Insurance in Force) - If the individual has Government life insurance (National Service Life Insurance or United States Government Life Insurance), enter an X in the "Yes" block. If the individual has indemnity protection only, enter an X in the "No" block.

g. block 32 (Remarks) - The Remarks: section will be used to complete entries too long for their respective blocks. When used for cross-reference, the item number must precede the continued information.

(1) There is no provision for adding a medical diagnosis.

(2) If grade as shown in item 3a is not permanent, enter permanent grade, date of appointment; and date of rank if different from date of appointment, as follows:

(a) "Item 3a-Cpl (P) (E-4) aptd 1 Aug 58."

(b) "Item 3a-Sp5 (T) (E-5) aptd 13 Sep 58, date of Rank 1 Aug 58."

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//