

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 4 October 2024

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240002590

APPLICANT REQUESTS: correction of his DD Form 214 (Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge) to show he was awarded the Combat Medical Badge.

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- Self-Authored Statement
- photograph

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 AR1999031898 on 12 January 2000.

2. The applicant states he was given the Combat Medical Badge when he was released from the service; however, it is not noted on his DD Form 214. He simply is requesting that the Combat Medical Badge is reflected on his service record and a corrected DD Form 214 be issued to him. He requested this correction over 20 years ago but was denied. He says the review Board claimed that he did not qualify for the Combat Medical Badge because he was only assigned to Headquarters, hospitals or an Aide Station and never went to the field. He believes they were wrong, he spent more than half the time in the field tending to the company he was assigned to, and he has the Combat Medical Badge to prove it. He wants the Combat Medical Badge included in his military service record and DD Form 214. In effect, his disappointment with the Board's decision delayed him requesting issuance of the Combat Medical Badge again but years later the decision still bothers him. He was recently diagnosed with cancer and wants this issue fix. He has included a picture of his field jacket with the Combat Medical Badge attached, which he has had hanging on his wall since he got it. He proclaims he spent five months in the field in Vietnam as a Combat Medic.

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

a. He was inducted into the Army of the United States on 12 February 1969. He was awarded military occupational specialty 91B (Medical Specialist).

b. DA Form 20 (Enlisted Qualification Record) shows he served in Vietnam from 8 July 1970 to 3 February 1971. He was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry, from on or about 8 July 1970 to 31 January 1971 where he performed duties as a senior medical specialist.

c. On 4 February 1971, he was honorably released from active duty. DD Form 214 shows he completed 1 year, 11 months, and 23 days of total active service. It also shows he was awarded or authorized:

- National Defense Service Medal
- Vietnam Service Medal
- one overseas service bar
- Sharpshooter Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-14)

d. On 18 May 2000, he was issued a DD Form 215 (Correction to DD Form 214), with the following corrections to his service record:

- Delete: Vietnam Service Medal
- Add: Bronze Star Medal//Army Good Conduct Medal//Vietnam Service Medal w/2 bronze service stars//Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal w/Device (1960)

e. The available service record is void of any documentation showing the applicant was awarded the Combat Medical Badge.

4. The applicant provides a copy of a picture showing a military style jacket with a subdued Combat Medical Badge attached to the front of the jacket and secured to the wall behind the jacket is a metal finished Combat Medical Badge.

5. On 12 January 2000, the ABCMR rendered a decision in Docket Number AR1999031898. The Board noted that all of the Department of the Army records related to this case be corrected by awarding the applicant the Army Good Conduct Medal for the period 12 February 1969 - 4 February 1971; that the applicant's DD Form 214 be amended to add the Bronze Star Medal, the Army Good Conduct Medal, and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with 60 Device and that so much of the application as is in excess of the foregoing be denied.

**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 held military occupational specialty (MOS) 91B (Medical Specialist) and served in Vietnam from 8 July 1970 to 3 February 1971; assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry. The Combat Medical Badge is authorized for several qualifying wars, conflicts, and operations, including Vietnam from 2 March 1961 to 28 March 1973. In order to be awarded the Combat Medical Badge, the member, with a qualifying medical specialty, must be assigned or attached by appropriate orders to an infantry unit of either a brigade, regiment, or smaller size, or to a medical unit of company or smaller size, organic to an infantry unit of brigade or smaller size, during any period the infantry unit is engaged in actual ground combat. The member must satisfactorily perform medical duties during any period the unit is engaged in active ground combat, provided the member is personally present and under fire. Based on his unit of assignment and in the absence of evidence he satisfactorily performed medical duties during a unit's engagement in active ground combat, the Board found insufficient evidence the applicant met the criteria for award of the Combat Medical Badge or evidence he was awarded the Combat Medical Badge.

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 correction of the records of the individual concerned.

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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.

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 Combat Medical Badge is awarded to medical department personnel (colonel and below) who are assigned or attached to a medical unit of company or smaller size that is organic to an infantry unit of brigade, regimental or smaller size which is engaged in active ground combat. Battle participation credit is not sufficient; the infantry unit must have been in contact with the enemy and the Soldier must have been personally present and under fire during such ground combat. The Combat Medical Badge is authorized for award for the following qualifying wars, conflicts, and operations:

- World War II (7 December 1941 to 3 September 1945)
- The Korean War (27 June 1950 to 27 July 1953)
- Republic of Vietnam Conflict (2 March 1961 to 28 March 1973), combined with qualifying service in Laos (19 April 1961 to 6 October 1962)
- Dominican Republic (28 April 1965 to 1 September 1966)
- Korea on the demilitarized zone (DMZ) (4 January 1969 to 31 March 1994)
- El Salvador (1 January 1981 to 1 February 1992)
- Grenada (23 October to 21 November 1983)
- Joint Security Area, Panmunjom, Korea (23 November 1984)
- Panama (20 December 1989 to 31 January 1990)
- Southwest Asia Conflict (17 January to 11 April 1991)
- Somalia (5 June 1992 to 31 March 1994)
- Afghanistan (Operation Enduring Freedom, 5 December 2001 to a date to be determined)
- Iraq (Operation Iraqi Freedom, 19 March 2003 to a date to be determined)

3. AR 635-5 (Separation Documents) in effect at the time states the DD Form 214 is a summary of the Soldier's most recent period of continuous active duty. It provides a brief, clear-cut record of all current active, prior active, and prior inactive duty service at the time of release from active duty, retirement, or discharge. The information entered thereon reflects the conditions as they existed at the time of separation. The information entered thereon reflects the conditions as they existed at the time of separation. Source documents will consist of the DA Form 20, and orders. Item 24; enter all authorized awards and decorations.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//