

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 27 November 2024

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240003570

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

- Meritorious Unit Commendation
- Expert Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-16)
- Sharpshooter Qualification Badge with Pistol Bar (.45 Caliber)
- Army Good Conduct Medal
- additional awards for service in the Republic of Vietnam

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- Special Orders Number 185
- Special Orders Number 201
- DA Pam 672-3 (Unit Citation and Campaign Participation Credit Register)

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 would like to have his service record to be accurate and complete before his death. He would like this accomplished by having his DD Form 214 corrected to show the listed awards. He further noted he was advised by LT Allen in November 1968 of his award of the Good Conduct Medal. He served as a field platoon on Landing Zone (LZ) Betty near Phan Thiet, but his company (272nd Military Police Company) was headquartered back in Nha Trang. He believes the company clerk in Nha Trang failed to update his service record with the Good Conduct Medal.
3. The applicant provides the above listed documents, to be referenced in his service record.

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

a. He was inducted into the Army of the United States on 2 August 1967.

b. His DA Form 20 shows the applicant served in Vietnam from 1 January 1968 to 31 December 1968. His assignment date to the 272d Military Police Company was effective 8 January 1968. DA Form 20 shows that the applicant qualified expert on the M16, 45 Calber pistol and sharpshooter on the M14.

c. His DA Form 20 also shows in Block 41 (Awards and Decorations):

- Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with 60 Device
- One Overseas Service Bar
- Valorous Unit Award

d. Special Orders Number 185 dated 6 Novemer 1967, awarded the applicant, among others, the Sharpshooter Qualification Badge with Pistol Bar (.45 Caliber).

e. Special Orders Number 201 dated 27 Novemer 1967, awarded the applicant, among others, the Expert Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-16).

f. His service record is void of documentation showing he was recommended or awarded the Army Good Conduct Medal.

g. On 1 August 1969, he was honorably released from active duty. His DD Form 214 shows he completed 2 years, 0 months, and 0 days of active service with 11 months and 29 of foreign service. It also shows he was awarded or authorized:

- National Defense Service Medal,
- Vietnam Service Medal
- Vietnam Campaign Medal
- Overseas Service Bar (1)
- Valorous Unit Award
- Sharpshooter Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-14)

5. A review of the applicant's record confirms he is eligible 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.

6. By regulation (AR 672-5-1), the Army Good Conduct Medal was awarded for each 3 years of continuous enlisted active service, 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 and there must be no convictions by a court-martial. 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

- he completed 2 years and 11 months
- he received all excellent conduct and efficiency ratings throughout his military service
- there is no record of a court-martial conviction

7. By regulation (AR 672-5-1), the Army Good Conduct Medal was awarded for each 3 years of continuous enlisted active service, 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 and there must be no convictions by a court-martial. 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

- he completed 3 years
- he received all excellent conduct and efficiency ratings throughout his military service
- there is no record of a court-martial conviction

8. By regulation (DA Pam 672-3):

a. 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.

b. DAGO Number 45, dated 1968, awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation to 272d Military Police Company, for service in Vietnam for the period of 1 November 1967 to 31 July 1968.

c. DAGO Number 72, dated 18 November 1968, awarded the Valorous Unit Award to the 272d Military Police Company, for extraordinary heroism on 30 January 1968.

BOARD DISCUSSION:

After reviewing the application and all supporting documents, the Board determined relief was warranted. The applicant's contentions, the military record, and regulatory guidance were carefully considered. Based upon the available documentation available and the excellent ratings for quality of service annotated on the applicant's DA Form 20, the Board concluded the applicant qualified and should be awarded the Army Good Conduct Medal, in addition to the other awards annotated in the administrative notes below.

BOARD VOTE:

Mbr 1      Mbr 2      Mbr 3

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	GRANT FULL RELIEF
:	:	:	GRANT PARTIAL RELIEF
:	:	:	GRANT FORMAL HEARING
:	:	:	DENY APPLICATION

BOARD DETERMINATION/RECOMMENDATION:

1. The Board determined the evidence presented is sufficient to warrant a recommendation for relief. As a result, the Board recommends that all Department of Army records of the individual concerned be corrected by amending the applicant's DD Form 214 by awarding and adding the Army Good Conduct Medal.
2. Prior to closing the case, the Board also noted the administrative notes below from the analyst of record and recommended those changes also be completed to more accurately reflect the military service of the applicant.

**X**

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CHAIRPERSON

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 additional campaign credit not annotated on his DD Form 214 for the service period ending 1 August 1969. As a result, amend his DD Form 214 to show:

- Meritorious Unit Commendation
- Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation
- Expert Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-16)
- Sharpshooter Qualification Badge with Pistol Bar (.45 Caliber)
- three bronze service stars with his previously awarded 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 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.
3. 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.
  - a. 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.

b. DAGO Number 45, dated 1968, awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation to 272d Military Police Company, for service in Vietnam for the period of 1 November 1967 to 31 July 1968.

c. DAGO Number 72, dated 18 November 1968, awarded the Valorous Unit Award to the 272d Military Police Company, for extraordinary heroism on 30 January 1968.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//