

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 11 June 2025

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240003685

APPLICANT REQUESTS: in effect, correction of the Service Member's (SM) record to show he was considered for promotion to the rank/grade of sergeant first class (SFC)/E-7.

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- Self-authored statement dated 24 November 2023 in which the applicant states the SM was denied a promotion to staff sergeant (SSG)/E-6 because he did not have a high school diploma; when he was promoted to SSG/E-6 in 1987 it should have been a promotion to SFC/E-7
- State [REDACTED] Marriage License and Certificate that shows the applicant and the SM were married on 13 May 1980
- [REDACTED] Death Certificate that shows the SM's date of death was 16 August 2021
- Directorate of Military Personnel Management Correspondence dated 5 December 2023 that informs the applicant of the correct agency in which to address her request, as the SM is no longer serving in the Army
- Seventh Army Noncommissioned Officer (NCO) Academy Primary Leadership Course (PLC) Certificate dated 11 August 1976 that shows the SM graduated from the Seventh Army NCO Academy
- PLC Certificate dated 1 July 1983 that shows the SM graduated from the PLC
- Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Writing Development Certificate that shows the SM successfully completed the course on 30 September 1985
- Unit Alcohol and Drug Coordinator Training Certificate that shows the SM successfully completed the course from 29-31 July 1986
- An appointment slip for 19 February 1986 for the SM with the Records Team at the 575th Personnel Service Company
- Disposition Form dated 17 December 1985 which shows the SM needed to update and add documents to his military personnel records jacket
- Alcohol and Drug Coordinator Course Certificate that shows the SM successfully completed the course from 27 – 28 May 1987

- Alcohol and Drug Leadership Seminar Certificates that shows the SM successfully completed the courses from 14 – 17 May 1991 and 14 – 17 July 1992.

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, in part:
 - the SM was denied a promotion to SSG/E-6 while stationed in Germany due to the fact he did not have a high school diploma
 - prior to enlisting, he dropped out of high school but completed high school while in Germany at [REDACTED]
 - the applicant believes since he was denied a promotion to staff sergeant/E-6 while in Germany, his promotion to SSG/E-6 in 1987 should be for promotion to SFC/E-7
3. A review of the SM's service record shows:
 - He enlisted in the Regular Army on 7 August 1973
 - Orders Number 102-18 dated 29 April 1987 promoted him to the rank of SSG/E-6, effective on 1 May 1987 with a date of rank of 8 April 1987
 - Orders Number 248-58 dated 16 October 1987 amended Orders Number 102-18 to read "promotion is effective 1 May 1987 with a date of rank of 8 April 1987"
 - DA Form 2-1 (Personnel Qualification Record (PQR)) shows in
 - Item 17 (Civilian Education and military Schools) [REDACTED]
General Education "completed 1976"
 - Item 27 (Remarks) his PQR was forwarded to the Department of the Army Selection Boards on 11 July 1990 and 8 July 1991
 - Orders Number 336-00256 dated 1 December 1992 released him from active duty and placed him on the retired list in the rank/grade of SSG/E-6
 - On 30 September 1993 he was honorably retired from the Regular Army; his DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) shows in:
 - Item 4a (Grade, Rate, or Rank) SSG

- Item 4b (Pay Grade) E-6
- Item 12h (Effective Date of Pay Grade) 1 May 1987

4. The SM's service record does not contain, nor does the applicant provide evidence he would have been considered for promotion to SFC.

BOARD DISCUSSION:

After reviewing the application, all supporting documents, and the evidence found within the SM's military record, the Board found that relief was not warranted. The Board carefully considered the SM's record of service, documents submitted in support of the petition and executed a comprehensive and standard review based on law, policy and regulation. Upon review of the applicant's petition and available SM's military records, the Board determined that no evidence exists confirming the SM's promotion to Sergeant First Class (SFC)/E-7, nor does the record indicate that the SM was in a promotable status prior to discharge. Additionally, the SM's record lacks evidence showing selection for promotion to SFC by a promotion selection board. Official promotion and selection boards evaluate candidates based on performance and potential—a responsibility outside the Board's purview. Given the absence of supporting documentation clearly indicating selection or promotion to SFC/E-7, the Board finds no merit in the request for relief. As such, relief is denied.

BOARD VOTE:

<u>Mbr 1</u>	<u>Mbr 2</u>	<u>Mbr 3</u>	
:	:	:	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.



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, 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 (AR) 600-8-19 (Enlisted Promotions and Reductions) in effect at the time prescribes the enlisted promotions and reductions function of the military personnel system.

a. Headquarters Department of the Army (HQDA) promotes Soldiers to the rank of SFC. A centralized promotion system has been in effect for promotion to SFC since 1 June 1970.

b. Criteria for primary and secondary zones of consideration for each grade will be announced by HQDA before each board. A Soldier may not decline promotion consideration.

c. Boards will select the best qualified in each Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) for promotion. They will recommend a specified number of Soldiers by MOS from zones of consideration who are the best qualified to meet the needs of the Army.

d. Soldiers must meet the following criteria:

- Meet the announced date of rank requirements and other eligibility criteria prescribed by HQDA

- Have at least 6, 8, and 10 years of total active federal service for SFC, master sergeant, and sergeant major
- Be serving on active duty in an enlisted status on convening date of the selection board
- Have a high school diploma or GED equivalent, or an associate or higher degree

3. AR 635-5 (Separation Documents) in effect at the time prescribes the separation documents which are prepared for individuals upon retirement, discharge, or release from active military service or control of the Army. Source documents will consist of DA Form 2-1 and any other available record. Item 4a/b enter active-duty grade of rank and pay grade at the time of separation. Item 12h enter the effective date of promotion to pay grade.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//