

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 23 July 2025

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240003777

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

- Combat Action Badge
- Presidential Unit Citation
- Air Medal

APPLICANT'S SUPPORTING DOCUMENT(S) CONSIDERED BY THE BOARD:
DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)

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 should be awarded the Combat Action Medal, two Presidential Unit Citation, Air Medals and all medals he was eligible for while serving in Vietnam. He claims he earned them with Company C, 3rd Battalion, 8th Infantry Division of the 4th Infantry Division wherein two Presidential Unit Citations were given during his time in the unit.
3. A review of the applicant's service records shows:
 - a. He was inducted into the Army of the United States on 13 September 1966.
 - b. His DA Form 20 (Enlisted Qualification Record) shows in:
 - item 31 (Foreign Service) – service in the Vietnam from 14 April 1967 to 24 February 1968
 - item 33 (Appointments and Reductions) – no reductions
 - item 38 (Record of Assignments)

- he served with C Company, 3rd Battalion, 8th Infantry, 4th Infantry Division, Vietnam from 14 April 1967 to 14 February 1968, he received all excellent conduct and efficiency ratings
 - item 40 (Wounds) – Gun shot wound to left wrist, 10 February 1968
 - item 41 (Awards and Decorations) – he was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device 1960, Overseas Service Bar, Purple Heart, Army Commendation with “V” Device, Expert Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Machine Gun (M-60), Sharpshooter Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-14)
- c. On 1 May 1969, he was medically retired from active duty. His DD Form 214 shows he completed 2 years, 5 months and 19 days of active service. It also shows he was awarded or authorized:
- Purple Heart
 - Army Commendation Medal
 - National Defense Service Medal
 - Vietnam Service Medal
 - Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal w/Device 1960
 - Combat Infantryman Badge
4. His records are void of disciplinary actions or a commander's disqualification statement, a recommendation, and/or orders for award of the Army Good Conduct Medal for the period 13 September 1966 to 1 May 1969.
5. His record is void of orders for a Combat Action Badge and Air Medal.
6. A review of the applicant's record confirms he is eligible for an award 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.

BOARD DISCUSSION:

After reviewing the application and all supporting documents, the Board determined 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 and standard review based on law, policy and regulation. Based upon the available documentation, the Board made the following findings and recommendations related to the requested relief:

- add Combat Action Badge: DENY, based upon the applicant's military service being outside any qualifying period for the award.
- add Presidential Unit Citation: GRANT, based upon the administrative note below from the analyst of record.
- add Air Medal: DENY, based upon the lack of qualifying evidence such as flight records and/or orders previously awarding the applicant the Air Medal.

BOARD VOTE:

Mbr 1 Mbr 2 Mbr 3

:	:	:	GRANT FULL RELIEF
:XXX	:XXX	:XXX	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 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 by adding all additional awards annotated below in the administrative notes.
2. The Board further determined the evidence presented is insufficient to warrant a portion of the requested relief. As a result, the Board recommends denial of so much of the application that pertains to awarding and adding the Combat Action Badge and/or the Air Medal.

X //SIGNED//

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. As a result, amend his DD Form 214 to show:

- Army Commendation with "V" Device
- three Bronze Service Stars to his previously awarded Vietnam Service Medal
- Presidential Unit Citation (2nd Award)
- Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation
- Republic of Vietnam Civil Actions Honor Medal First Class Unit Citation
- Expert Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Machine Gun (M-60)
- Sharpshooter Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-14)

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) 600-8-22 (Military Awards) states:

a. The Air Medal is awarded in time of war for heroism and for meritorious achievement or service while participating in aerial flight. This award is primarily intended for personnel on flying status but may also be awarded to those personnel whose combat duties require them to fly; for example, personnel in the attack elements of units involved in air-land assaults against an armed enemy. As with all personal decorations, formal recommendations, approval through the chain of command, and announcement in orders are required.

b. Award of the Combat Action Badge are branch and MOS immaterial. Assignment to a combat arms unit or a unit organized to conduct close or offensive combat operations or performing offensive combat operations is not required to qualify for the Combat Action Badge. However, it is not intended to award the Combat Action Badge to all Soldiers who serve in a combat zone or imminent danger area. The Soldier must be performing assigned duties in an area where hostile fire pay, or imminent danger pay is authorized. The Soldier must be personally present and actively engaging or being engaged by the enemy and performing satisfactorily in accordance with the prescribed rules of engagement. The Soldier must [not] be assigned or attached to a unit that would qualify the Soldier for the Combat Infantryman Badge or the Combat Medical Badge. Award of the Combat Action Badge is authorized from 18 September 2001 to a date to be determined. Only one Combat Action Badge may be awarded during a qualifying period.

c. Vietnam service medal is awarded to all members of the Armed Forces of the United States for qualifying service in Vietnam after 3 July 1965 through 28 March 1973. Qualifying service included attachment to or assignment for 1 or more days with an organization participating in or directly supporting military operations. Qualifying service also included temporary duty for 30 consecutive days or 60 nonconsecutive days in Vietnam or contiguous areas, except that the time limit may be waived for personnel participating in actual combat operations. This same regulation states a bronze service star will be awarded for wear on the Vietnam Service Medal for participation in each credited campaign. A silver service star is authorized in lieu of five bronze service stars.

3. By regulation AR 635-5 (Separation Documents), 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. Item 24 states only entries from item 21, DA Form 66 (Officer Qualification Record), or section 9, DA Form 20 (Enlisted Qualification Record) all decorations, service medals, campaign credits, and badges awarded or authorized, omitting authorities cited therein.

4. By regulation AR 672-5-1 (Military Awards), the Vietnam War Era Army Good Conduct Medal criteria 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.

5. The Department of the Army Pamphlet 672-3 (Unit Citation and Campaign Participation Credit Register) lists the awards received by units serving in Vietnam. This pamphlet shows the unit to which the applicant was assigned was cited for award of:

a. Presidential Unit Citation for the period 18 to 26 May 1967, DAGO Number 69, 1969; for the period 29 October to 30 November 1967, DAGO Number 38, 1971.

c. Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation for the period October 1966 to 28 July 1969, DAGO Number 3, 1970.

d. Republic of Vietnam Civil Actions Honor Medal First Class Unit Citation for the period 1 October 1966 to 31 October 1969, DAGO 53, 1970

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//