

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 25 November 2024

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240003867

APPLICANT REQUESTS: reconsideration of his previous request:

- for award of the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal
- correction of his DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) to show the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal
- issuance of the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal

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

- Self-Authored Letter to Army Review Board Agency dated 10 January 2024
- DD Form 1351-2 (Travel Voucher or Subvoucher), 16 May 1984
- Image of a Plaque

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 Numbers AC96-08124 on 29 October 1996, AR20150010690 on 30 August 2016 and AR 20230002372 on 13 December 2023.

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

a. On 10 May 1983, he enlisted in the Regular Army for 2 years and 8 months.

b. DA Form 2-1 (Personnel Qualification Record) shows in item 5 (Oversea Service) he served in Panama from 27 September 1983 to 29 July 1985. It also shows in item 9 (Awards, Decorations and Campaigns) was awarded or authorized:

- Parachutist Badge
- Army Service Ribbon
- Army Achievement Medal (2nd Award)
- Overseas Service Ribbon
- Army Good Conduct Medal

- Marksman Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-16)
- Expert Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Grenade Bar
- Marksman Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Pistol Bar (.45 Cal)

c. On 9 May 1986, he was honorably released from active duty and was transferred to the U.S. Army Reserve (USAR) Control Group (Reinforcement Training) to complete his remaining service obligation. His DD Form 214 shows he completed 3 years of active service. Item 13 (Decorations, Medals, Badges, Citations and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized) shows:

- Army Service Ribbon
- Overseas Service Ribbon
- Parachute Badge
- Army Achievement Medal (First Oak Leaf Cluster)
- Army Good Conduct Medal
- Marksman Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-16)
- Marksman Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Grenade Bar
- Marksman Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Pistol Bar (.45 Cal)

d. Orders Number 0-06-038250 dated 2 May 1989 issued by the USAR Personnel Center discharge the applicant from the Ready Reserve, effective 9 May 1989.

e. DD Form 215 (Correction to DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty), dated 15 September 2016 added in:

- item 11 (Primary Specialty Number, Title and Years and Months in Specialty): 11B10 Infantryman 1 YR 10 MOS
- added in item 18 (Remarks): SERVICE IN HONDURAS FROM 19840215 TO 19840423

f. The available service record is void of any documentation showing the applicant was awarded the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal.

3. The applicant provides:

a. On 10 January 2014, a self-authored Letter to the Army Review Boards Agency stating he has attached/enclosed a DD Form 1351-2 as additional supporting documentation in support of an application for correction of his military records. He expresses the DD Form 1351-2 was signed by him on 16 May 1984 and approved on 1 June 1984 and the document along with documents he submitted in his earlier request for correction well establishes that Palmerola Air Base (AB) and many units and personnel assigned there were utilized to support combat missions in El Salvador and Nicaragua. The applicant states the DD Form 1351-2 and the other supporting

documents establishes that he was assigned to Palmerola AB in Honduras for more than 30 continuous days in early 1984 and that he was in direct support of El Salvador; protecting and guarding the Joint Task Force (JTF)-11 (later JTF-Bravo) Tactical Operations Command, the air base, radar facility, weather liaison station, the planes, personnel and the helicopters used for the combat support missions at Palmerola AB - all in direct support of the El Salvador. Beginning in 2015, he has exhausted all lower levels of administrative remedies including a previous request to this Board, two local Congressional representatives and the U.S. Army Human Resources Command to aid him in correcting this error to his Army records.

b. DD Form 1351-2 dated 16 May 1984 indicates the applicant was in a temporary duty status to Palmerola, Honduras from approximately 15 February 1984 (arrival date) to 23 April 1984 (departure date).

c. An image of a plaque inscribed at the top with "Palmerola Comayagua, Ahuas Tara II Honduras" and at the bottom "Military Police Panama".

4. On 29 October 1996, the ABCMR rendered a decision in Docket Number AC96-08124. The Board denied his request for award of the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal with campaign ribbon. In his letter response, the Acting Director, Army Review Boards Agency, wrote his records did not reflect deployment to Grenada during Operation Urgent Fury. It further advised him to provide documents substantiating his request to allow the Board to decide in his case.

5. On 30 August 2016, the ABCMR rendered a decision in Docket Number AR20150010690. The Board denied his request for the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and the National Defense Service Medal. The Board determined the awards regulation did not authorize the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for service in Honduras. The U.S. Government did not recognize Honduras as a combat area or designate Honduras as an imminent danger or hostile fire area during the period March 1984 to April 1984 or February 1984 and May 1984.

6. On 13 December 2023, the ABCMR rendered a decision in Docket Number AR20230002372. The Board determined there was insufficient evidence based on the regulatory guidance in accordance with Army Regulation (AR) 600-8-22 (Military Awards). The Board agreed the applicant's request for reversal of the previous Board decision based on the submitted new evidence is without merit. Therefore, the Board denied relief.

BOARD DISCUSSION:

After reviewing the application and all supporting documents, the Board determined relief was not warranted. The applicant's contentions, the military record, and regulatory guidance were carefully considered. Based upon regulatory guidance stating that Honduras is not a qualifying location for the Armed Expeditionary Medal, the Board concluded there was insufficient evidence of an error or injustice warranting a change to the applicant's military record.

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. AR 600-8-22 prescribes Army policy, criteria, and administrative instructions concerning individual and unit military awards.

a. The Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal is authorized for qualifying service after 1 July 1958 in military operations within specific geographic areas during specified time periods. An individual, who was not engaged in actual combat or equally hazardous activity, must have been a bona fide member of a unit participating in, or be engaged in the direct support of, the operation for 30 consecutive or 60 nonconsecutive days provided this support involved entering the area of operations. Table 2-3 (Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal) does not show authorization for the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for military operations in Honduras.

b. Area of operation is defined as the foreign territory upon which troops have actually landed or are present and specifically deployed for the direct support of the designated military operation; adjacent water areas in which ships are operating, patrolling, or providing direct support of operations; and the airspace above and adjacent to the area in which operations are being conducted.

c. Direct support is defined as services being supplied to participating forces in the area of engagement (AOE) by ground units, ships, and aircraft provided it involves actually entering the designated AOE. This includes units, ships, and aircraft providing logistic, patrol, guard, reconnaissance, or other military support within the designated AOE. AOE is defined as the foreign territory on which troops have actually landed or are present and specifically deployed for the operation; adjacent water areas in which ships are operating, patrolling, or providing direct support of the operation; and the air space above and adjacent to the area in which operations are being conducted.

2. AR 635-5 (Separation Documents), in effect at the time prescribes the separation documents that will be furnished each individual who is separated from the Army. Source documents consist of all available records to include DA Form 2-1, and orders. Item 13; enter from section 9, DA Form 2-1 all decorations, service medals, campaign credits, and badges awarded or authorized.

3. AR 635-8 (Separation Processing and Documents), currently in effect, explains separation document preparation and outlines the type of entries that must be entered into each block of the DD Form 214. This regulation directs in block 13, list all federally recognized awards and decorations for all periods of service.

4. Executive Order 10977, 4 December 1961, established the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal.

a. The Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, with ribbons and appurtenances, for award to personnel of the Armed Forces of the United States who after July- 1, 1958:

(1) Participate, or have participated, as members of United States military units in a United States military operation in which personnel of any military department participate, in the opinion of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in significant numbers; and

(2) Encounter, incident to such participation, foreign armed opposition, or are otherwise placed, or have been placed, in such position that, in the opinion of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, hostile action by; foreign armed forces were imminent even though it did not materialize.

b. The medal, with ribbons and appurtenances, shall be of appropriate design approved by the Secretary of Defense and shall be awarded by the Secretary of the military department directly concerned, and by the Secretary of the Treasury with respect to the United States Coast Guard, under uniform regulations to be issued by the Secretary of Defense.

c. The medal shall be awarded only for operations for which no other United States campaign medal is approved. For operations in which personnel of only one military department participate, the medal shall be awarded only if there is no other suitable award available to that department. No more than one medal shall be awarded to any one person, but for each succeeding operation justifying such award a suitable device may be awarded to be worn on the medal or ribbon as prescribed by appropriate regulations.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//