

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 4 December 2024

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240003975

APPLICANT REQUESTS: correction of his DD Form 214 (Report of Separation from Active Duty) to show:

- Award of the Good Conduct Medal
- he was the Distinguished Graduate of the Engineer Missile Equipment Maintenance Course

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- DD Form 214

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 his DD Form 214 does not show he was awarded the Good Conduct Medal nor that he was the Distinguished Graduate of the Engineer Missile Equipment Maintenance Course, given at Fort Belvoir, VA.
3. The applicant enlisted in the Regular Army on 14 February 1975. He completed the training requirements, and he was awarded military occupational specialty 62C (Engineer Missile Equipment Maintenance). During completion of this course the United States Army Engineer School, Fort Belvoir, VA, issued him a Diploma, dated 26 June 1975, showing he was the Distinguished Graduate of the course.
4. He was assigned to Germany from 19 July 1975 to 2 February 1978.
5. The available service record does not contain the applicant's conduct and efficiency ratings; however, the available evidence does contain the following:

a. four Enlisted Evaluation Reports, showing on:

- 9 August 1976, he received an evaluation score of 125, which is the highest score he could receive
- 29 August 1977, he received an evaluation score of 124, which is 1 point less than the highest score he could receive
- 31 January 1978, he received an evaluation score of 125. which is the highest score he could receive

b. three Letters of Appreciation showing he was lauded by supervisors and peers for outstanding performance of duty, a professional attitude, and dedication, and expertise.

c. a letter of Commendation from his unit commending and congratulating him for outstanding performance of duty as a member of 2nd Platoon, 71st Ordnance Company during the Annual Wildflecken [Germany] training from May to June 1977. His efforts were described as indicative of the finest conduct expected of a Soldier.

6. The available service record does not contain evidence of misconduct or nonjudicial punishment. Nor is there evidence he was disqualified for award of the Good Conduct Medal.

7. On 7 February 1978, he was honorably released from active duty. The DD Form 214 he was issued shows in:

- block 18a (Net Active Service This Period) - 02 11 24
- block 26 (Decorations, Medals, Badges, Citations and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized) -
 - National Defense Service Medal
 - Army Commendation Medal
 - Expert Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-16)
- block 27 (Remarks), "Engineer Missile Equipment Maintenance 12 Weeks 1975"

8. The DD Form 214 is a synopsis of the Soldier's most recent period of continuous active service. It provides a brief, clear-cut record of active Army service at the time of release from active duty, retirement, or discharge. It is important that information entered on the form be complete and accurate. There is no provision to list the Distinguished Honor Graduate on the DD Form 214.

BOARD DISCUSSION:

After reviewing the application, all supporting documents, and the evidence found within the military record, the Board found that partial relief was 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. Upon review of the applicant's request and available military records, the Board determined there is sufficient evidence to support correction of the applicant's DD Form 214 to award him the Army Good Conduct Medal (AGCM). However, the Board noted, there is no provision on the DD Form 214 to add the applicant's Distinguished Honor Graduate status. Therefore, the Board granted partial relief to correct the applicant's record and award him the Army Good Conduct Medal.

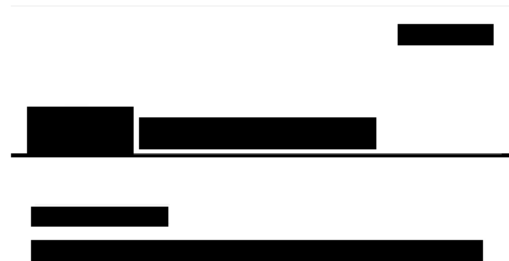
BOARD VOTE:

Mbr 1 Mbr 2 Mbr 3

:	:	:	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 partial relief. As a result, the Board recommends that all Department of the Army records of the individual concerned be corrected by awarding him the Army Good Conduct Medal (1st Award) for exemplary service from 14 February 1975 to 7 February 1978 and adding the medal to his DD Form 214 for the period ending 7 February 1978.
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 correction of his DD Form 214 to show he was the Distinguished Graduate of the Engineer Missile Equipment Maintenance Course.



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 600-8-22 (Military Awards) prescribes Army policy, criteria, and administrative instructions concerning individual and unit military awards. The Army Good Conduct Medal is awarded to individuals who distinguish themselves by their conduct, efficiency, and fidelity. This period is 3 years except in those cases when the period for the first award ends with the termination of a period of active Federal military service. Although there is no automatic entitlement to the Army Good Conduct Medal, disqualification must be justified. There is no evidence the applicant was disqualified for the award.

3. Army Regulation 635-5 (Separation Documents), then in effect, prescribed the separation documents prepared for Soldiers upon retirement, discharge, or release from active military service or control of the Army. In established standardized policy for the preparation of the DD Form 214. In pertinent part, it stated the DD Form 214 is a synopsis of the Soldier's most recent period of continuous active service. It provides a brief, clear-cut record of active Army service at the time of release from active duty, retirement, or discharge. It is important that information entered on the form should be complete and accurate. Chapter 2 of Army Regulation 635-5 contains guidance on the preparation of the DD Form 214. There is no provision for adding the Distinguished Honor Graduate on the DD Form 214.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//