

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 3 December 2024

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240004083

APPLICANT REQUESTS: award of the Combat Infantryman Badge.

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- DD Form 214 (Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge)
- applicant's statement
- 3 maps

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 provided an ABCMR Record of Proceedings that belongs to another Soldier that will not be addressed in the consideration of his case without that Soldiers permission.
3. The applicant was inducted into the Army of the United States on 17 December 1965. He completed his initial entry training and was awarded military occupational specialty (MOS) 95B (Military Police). He was assigned to the Republic of Vietnam (Republic of Vietnam) from 6 June 1966 to 5 June 1967, and he served with Company A, 504th Military Police Battalion with duties in his MOS.
4. On 11 December 1967, he was honorably released from active duty and transferred to the U.S. Army Reserve Control Group to complete his military service obligation. He was issued a DD Form 214 confirming he served 1 year, 11 months, and 25 days of net service, this period this includes 1 year of foreign service. The DD Form 214 he was issued shows in:

- Reason and Authority – Army Regulation 635-200, “SPN 201 (Enlisted Personnel-Expiration of Term of Service)”
- Decorations, Medals, Badges, Commendations, and Citations and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized – National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal, 2 Overseas Service Bars, Meritorious Unit Commendation, Good Conduct Medal (1st Award)

5. He provided a statement in which he gives a detailed description of his unit and their mission. He states he arrived at Ton San Nhut Air Force Base, on 6 June 1966 and he was assigned to Company A, 504th Military Police Battalion, Nha Trang. The mission of the 504th was to provide direct combat support to the tactical units in I and II Corps Tactical Zones (CTZs), as well as to furnish military police support as directed by the commanding officer of 16th Military Police Group from 1965 to July 1966, elements of the 504th provided military police support in 12 different locations in I and II CTZs. Supporting the buildup and deployment of three infantry divisions, the battalion was awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation. He also provided three maps of Vietnam.

6. The applicant’s submissions were provided to the Board in their entirety.

7. Army Regulation 600-8-22 (Military Awards) states a bronze service star is worn on the appropriate service ribbon, to include the Vietnam Service Medal, for each credited campaign. The applicant served during the following three campaigns: The Vietnam Counteroffensive from 25 December 1965 to 30 June 1966, Counteroffensive Phase II from 1 July 1966 to 31 May 1967, and Counteroffensive Phase III from 1 June 1967 to 29 January 1968.

8. DA PAM 672–3 (Unit Citation and Campaign Participation Credit Register), Department of the Army General Orders (DAGO) Number 8, dated 1974, announced award of the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation with Palm to Headquarters, U.S. Military Assistance Command, and its subordinate units during the period 8 February 1962 to 28 March 1973 and to Headquarters, U.S. Army Vietnam, and its subordinate units during the period 20 July 1965 to 28 March 1973.

9. The available evidence is sufficient to administratively correct the applicant’s DD Form 214 by adding three bronze service stars to be worn on the Vietnam Service Medal and the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation with Palm.

#### BOARD DISCUSSION:

After reviewing the application, all supporting documents, and the evidence found within the military record, the Board found that relief was not warranted. The applicant’s contentions, the military record, and regulatory guidance were carefully considered. The evidence shows the applicant held a Military Police MOS and was assigned to a Military

Police Company in Vietnam, both of which are non-qualifying MOS and unit for the Combat Infantryman Badge. The Board found no evidence he held an infantry MOS, was assigned or attached to an infantry unit, and was personally and actively present when his unit engaged or was engaged by the enemy. Therefore, the Board found insufficient evidence the SM qualified for award of the Combat Infantryman Badge.

BOARD VOTE:

Mbr 1      Mbr 2      Mbr 3

:            :            :            GRANT FULL RELIEF

:            :            :            GRANT PARTIAL RELIEF

:            :            :            GRANT FORMAL HEARING

█           █           █            DENY APPLICATION

BOARD DETERMINATION/RECOMMENDATION:

Except for the correction addressed in Administrative Note(s) below, 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.

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE(S): a review of the applicant's record found evidence sufficient to amend his DD Form 214 for the period ending 11 December 1967 by adding three bronze service stars to be worn on the Vietnam Service Medal and the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation.

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) states:

a. Combat Infantryman Badge was established during World War II to provide special recognition of the unique role of the Army infantryman, the only Soldier whose daily mission is to close with and destroy the enemy and to seize and hold terrain. The badge was intended as an inducement for individuals to join the infantry while serving as a morale booster for infantrymen. In developing the Combat Infantryman Badge, the War Department did not dismiss or ignore the contributions of other branches. Their vital contributions to the overall war effort were noted, but it was decided that other awards and decorations were sufficient to recognize their contributions. From the beginning, Army leadership has taken care to retain the badge for the unique purpose for which it was established. The War Department received requests to award the Combat Infantryman Badge to non-infantry individuals and units employed as infantry during tactical emergencies. All of those requests were disapproved based on the fact that the regular infantryman lived, slept, ate, and fought as an infantryman on a continuous and indefinite basis without regard to the tactical situation.

b. A bronze service star is worn on the appropriate service ribbon, to include the Vietnam Service Medal, for each credited campaign. The applicant served during the following three campaigns: The Vietnam Counteroffensive from 25 December 1965 to 30 June 1966, Counteroffensive Phase II from 1 July 1966 to 31 May 1967, and Counteroffensive Phase III from 1 June 1967 to 29 January 1968.

3. DA PAM 672-3 (Unit Citation and Campaign Participation Credit Register), DAGO Number 8, dated 1974, announced award of the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation with Palm to Headquarters, U.S. Military Assistance Command, and its subordinate units during the period 8 February 1962 to 28 March 1973 and to

Headquarters, U.S. Army Vietnam and its subordinate units during the period 20 July 1965 to 28 March 1973.

4. U.S. Army Vietnam Regulation 672-1 (Awards and Decorations) governed award of the Combat Infantryman Badge to Army forces operating in South Vietnam. This regulation stated that criteria for award of the Combat Infantryman Badge identified the man who trained, lived, and fought as an infantryman and that the Combat Infantryman Badge was the unique award established to recognize the infantryman and only the infantryman for his service. Further, "the Combat Infantryman Badge is not an award for being shot at or for undergoing the hazards of day to day combat." This regulation also stated the Combat Infantryman Badge was authorized for award to infantry officers, to enlisted personnel, and to warrant officers who had an infantry specialty/military occupational specialty and required that they must have served in active ground combat while assigned or attached to an infantry unit of brigade, regimental or smaller size. Appendix V of this regulation states that during the Vietnam era the CIB was awarded only to enlisted individuals who held and served in MOS 11B, 11C, 11D, 11F, 11G, or 11H.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//