

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 20 June 2025

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240004253

APPLICANT REQUESTS: correction of his DD Form 214 (Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge) to show award of the Meritorious Unit Commendation (2nd Award).

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- Letter of Commendation, 16 March 19XX (partially illegible)
- Special Orders Number 27, 7 April 1972
- General Orders Number 541, 6 March 1973
- Memorandum, 14 March 1973
- Four Newspaper Articles
- DA Form 67-6 (Officer Efficiency Report)
- 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:

a. General Orders Number 541, dated 6 March 1973 awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation (2nd Award) to the 71st Transportation Battalion, attached units, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, and the 372nd Transportation Company.

b. He has a DA Form 67-6 (Officer Efficiency Report) that shows his assignment to Headquarters and Headquarters Command, 71st Transportation Battalion. He also has a copy of Special Orders Number 27, dated 7 April 1972, that shows his assignment to the 372nd Transportation Company.

c. The Meritorious Unit Commendation (2nd Award) is not on his DD Form 214. He has documentation to support his request. He served with peers that received the award.

3. The applicant provides the following:

a. Special Orders Number 27, 7 April 1972, that shows his assignment to 372nd Transportation Company, effective 10 April 1972.

b. General Orders Number 541, dated 6 March 1973, awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation (2nd Award) to the 71st Transportation Battalion, during the period 1 January to 1 July 1972 and the following attached units:

- Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment
- 368th Transportation Company
- 372nd Transportation Company
- 5th Transportation Company
- 446th Transportation Company
- 783rd Transportation Company
- E Company, 20th Infantry

4. A review of the applicant's service records show:

a. He entered active duty as a commissioned officer with the U.S. Army Reserve (USAR) on 24 May 1971.

b. His DA Form 66 (Officer Qualification Record) shows in:

(1) item 17 (Foreign Service): service in Vietnam from 11 December 1971 to 17 November 1972 (two campaigns).

(2) item 18 (Record of Assignments) – he was assigned to the following units:

- 368th Transportation Company, Vietnam, from 14 December 1971 to 30 June 1972
- Headquarters and Headquarters Command, 71st Transportation Battalion, Vietnam, from 1 July 1972 to 15 August 1972
- Headquarters and Headquarters Command, U.S. Army Infantry Light Battalion, Vietnam, from 16 August 1972 to 16 November 1972

(3) item 21 (Awards and Decorations) – he was awarded:

- National Defense Service Medal

- Vietnam Service Medal
- Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960)
- two Overseas Service Bars
- Sharpshooter Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-14)
- Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-16)

c. On 23 May 1973, he was honorably released from active duty. He completed 2 years of active service. His DD Form 214 shows he was awarded or authorized:

- National Defense Service Medal
- Vietnam Service Medal
- two overseas bars
- Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960)
- Sharpshooter Marksmanship Qualification Badge

5. 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 following:

a. Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 71st Transportation Battalion was cited for award of the Meritorious Unit Commendation, for the period 1 January to 1 July 1972, Department of the Army General Orders (DAGO) 32, dated 1973.

b. 372nd Transportation Company, was cited for award of the Meritorious Unit Commendation, for the period 1 January to 1 July 1972, DAGO 32, dated 1973.

6. The applicant's record contains sufficient evidence to support corrections not annotated on his DD Form 214. His DD Form 214 will be administratively corrected to show these awards.

BOARD DISCUSSION:

1. After reviewing the application, all supporting documents, and the evidence found within the military record, the Board found that 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 petition, available military records, the Board determined the applicant met the criteria for award of the Meritorious Unit Commendation for the HHC 71st Transportation Battalion and 372nd Transportation Company. The Board determined there was sufficient evidence to justify correcting the applicant's DD Form 214 to add the Meritorious Unit Commendation (2nd Award).

2. Prior to closing the case, the Board did note the analyst of record administrative notes below, and recommended the correction is completed to more accurately depict the military service of the applicant.

BOARD VOTE:

Mbr 1 Mbr 2 Mbr 3

■	■	■	GRANT FULL RELIEF
:	:	:	GRANT PARTIAL RELIEF
:	:	:	GRANT FORMAL HEARING
:	:	:	DENY APPLICATION

BOARD DETERMINATION/RECOMMENDATION:

In addition to the administrative notes annotated by the Analyst of Record (below the signature), the Board concurs with the corrections addressed in Administrative Note(s) below and the Board determined the evidence presented is sufficient to warrant a recommendation for relief. As a result, the Board recommends that all Department of the Army records of the individual concerned be corrected by adding the Meritorious Unit Commendation (2nd Award) to his DD Form 214 for the period ending 23 May 1973.

X	
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 records show he was awarded or authorized the following awards not reflected on his DD Form 214. As a result, amend his DD Form 214 to show:

- Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation
- two bronze service stars to his previously issued Vietnam Service Medal

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) provides:

a. A bronze service star is worn on the appropriate service ribbon, to include the Vietnam Service Medal, for each credited campaign.

b. The Meritorious Unit Commendation is awarded to units for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services for at least 6 continuous months during the period of military operations against an armed enemy occurring on or after 1 January 1944. Units based in the continental United States are excluded from this award, as are other units outside the area of operations.

3. Department of the Army General Orders Number 8, dated 1974, announced award of the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation 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. Army Regulation 635-5 (Separation Documents) prescribed the separation documents that would be furnished each individual who was separated from the Army including Active-Duty Training personnel and established standardized procedures for the preparation and distribution of these documents. All available records would be used as a basis for the preparation of the DD Form 214, including DA Form 20. In item 24, enter from section 21, all decorations, service medals, campaign credits, and badges awarded or authorized, omitting authorities cited therein.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//