

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 25 June 2025

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240004719

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

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- Bronze Star Medal Certificate, 22 June 1969
- Character Witness Letter, 4 February 2024

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 was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, and it is not listed on his DD Form 214. He provides a Bronze Star Medal certificate and a letter from his former company commander.
3. The applicant provides:
 - a. A certificate that shows he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, for meritorious achievement in ground operations against hostile forces during the period July 1968 to July 1969 in Vietnam.
 - b. A character witness letter, 4 February 2024, issued by General (Retired) M_____ that shows in part from 1968 to 1969 the [applicant] was assigned to B Company, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Cavalry, as an infantry captain. The [applicant] was wounded on 9 March 1969, during heavy gunfire. Despite his injuries the [applicant] continued to coordinate the company battle. The [applicant] received his decoration in Vietnam and has the certificate.
4. A review of the applicant's record shows:

a. He was inducted into the Army of the United States on 1 February 1968.

b. His DA Form 20 (Enlisted Qualification Record) shows in:

(1) item 31 (Foreign Service) – service in Vietnam from 6 July 1968 to 4 July 1969.

(2) item 38 (Record of Assignments) – he was assigned to Company B, 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division, Vietnam from 11 July 1968 to 6 March 1969; Company B, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division, Vietnam from 7 March 1969 to 30 June 1969; he received all excellent conduct and efficiency ratings.

(3) item 40 (Wounds) – “Laceration Head” on 9 March 1969.

(4) item 41 (Awards and Decorations) – he was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, one overseas bar, Vietnam Service Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, Air Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960), Purple Heart, and the Expert Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar.

c. He was honorably released from active duty on 30 January 1970. His DD Form 214 shows he completed 2 years of active-duty service.

(1) He was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960), Vietnam Service Medal with four campaign stars, Expert Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M14), Purple Heart, Combat Infantryman Badge, Air Medal, Expert Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Gunner Bar (M60), and Sharpshooter Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M16).

(2) Item 30 (Remarks) has entries but is void of his service in Vietnam.

5. The applicant’s available service records are void of orders awarding him the Bronze Star Medal.

6. His records are void of a commander’s disqualification for award of the Army Good Conduct Medal (1st Award) for the period 1 February 1968 through 30 January 1970.

7. A review of the Awards and Decorations Computer-Assisted Retrieval System, an index of general orders issued during the Vietnam era between 1965 and 1973 maintained by the U.S. Army Human Resources Command Military Awards Branch, failed to reveal any orders for the Bronze Star Medal pertaining to the applicant.

8. A review of the applicant’s record confirms he is eligible for awards and campaign credits that are not recorded on his DD Form 214.

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 and available military records, the Board determined relief was appropriate. The applicant served with Company B, 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division, in Vietnam from 11 July 1968 to 6 March 1969. Furthermore, the Board determined the applicant's service record did not reflect he was awarded the Army Good Conduct Medal, and his record shows he received "excellent" conduct and efficiency ratings throughout his service. Based on this the Board determined relief was warranted and granted relief to award the Bronze Star Medal and the Army Good Conduct Medal.

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

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

BOARD DETERMINATION/RECOMMENDATION:

In addition to the administrative note below, the Board determined the evidence presented is sufficient to warrant a recommendation for relief. As a result, the Board recommends that all Department of Army records of the individual concerned be corrected by amending his DD Form 214 by adding in item 24 (Decorations, Medals, Badges, Citations and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized) – Bronze Star Medal and the Army Good Conduct Medal for exemplary service for the period 1 February 1968 to 30 June 1970.

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 records show he was awarded or authorized the following awards and administrative corrections 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 (2nd Award)
- Republic of Vietnam Civil Actions Honor Medal
- Item 30 (Remarks) – service in Vietnam from 6 July 1968 to 4 July 1969

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 award. The Bronze Star Medal is awarded in time of war for heroism and for meritorious achievement or service, not involving participation in aerial flight, in connection with military operations against an armed enemy, or while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party. As with all personal decorations, formal recommendations, approval through the chain of command, and announcement in orders are required.

3. 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 the:

a. Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation, 17 November 1965 to 19 May 1969, Department of the Army General Orders (DAGO) 70, dated 1969; May 1969 to February 1970, DAGO 11, dated 1973.

b. Republic of Vietnam Civil Actions Honor Medal, 1 January 1969 to 1 February 1970, DAGO 42, dated 1972.

4. Army Regulation 672-5-1 (Awards), 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. 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.

a. Item 24 (Decorations, Medals, Badges, Commendations, Citations and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized), enter from section 9, DA Form 20 (Enlisted Qualification Record) – enter all decorations, service medals, campaign credits, and badges awarded or authorized, omitting authorities cited therein.

b. Item 30 (Remarks) – the "Remarks" section will be used to complete entries too long for their respective blocks. Indicate Indochina and Korea service on or after 5 August 1964 by entering inclusive dates of service for Vietnam and indicating "yes" or "no" for service in Indochina and Korea.

6. Army Regulation 15-185 (Army Board for Correction of Military Records) prescribes the policies and procedures for correction of military records by the Secretary of the Army acting through the ABCMR. The ABCMR begins its consideration of each case with the presumption of administrative regularity. The applicant has the burden of proving an error or injustice by a preponderance of the evidence.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//