

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 12 December 2024

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240004746

APPLICANT REQUESTS: correction of block 11 (Primary Specialty Number, Title and Years and Months in Specialty) of his DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) for the period ending 30 September 1987 to list the proficiency designator "A."

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

- two DD Forms 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record), 3 February 2024 and 5 June 2024
- DD Form 214, ending 30 September 1987
- Certificate of Achievement, 30 September 1987
- Brigadier General Congratulatory Letter, 26 October 1987
- DD Form 215 (Correction to DD Form 214), 27 July 2011
- Applicant's letter, 26 September 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 the "A" proficiency designator was awarded after retirement for outstanding qualification in the field of anesthesia nursing; it should be added to his DD Form 214 to show his entire accomplishments.
3. The applicant's entire record is not available to the Board for review, however, the documents he provided are sufficient for the Board to consider his request.
4. The applicant's DD Form 214, dated 30 September 1987, and subsequently issued DD Form 215, show he was honorably retired due to sufficient length of service in the rank of lieutenant colonel (LTC), pay grade O-5.

a. Block 11 of his DD Form 214 does not contain the "A" proficiency designator, but it does include the following entries:

- 66F9B – Nurse Anesthetist / 4 years and 10 months
- 7W – Regional Anesthesia / 6 years and 5 months
- 5K – Instructor / 6 years and 5 months
- 66H – Medical Surgical Nurse / 20 years and 11 months
- 8E – Nurse Practitioner / 9 years and 1 month

b. Block 13 (Decorations, Medals, Badges, Citations and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized) does not list his certificate of Achievement.

5. The applicant provides the following evidence in support of his application:

a. A Department of the Army Certificate of Achievement dated 30 September 1987, in recognition of his outstanding qualifications in the field of Anesthesia Nursing, shows he was awarded the "A" proficiency designator. Lieutenant General Quinn H. Becker, the Surgeon General of the Army Between 1 February 1985 and 31 May 1988, signed the certificate.

b. A letter from the Brigadier General, CLA-E, Chief, Army Nurse Corps, dated 26 October 1987, who personally informed the applicant he was awarded the "A" prefix. The letter reads -

On behalf of all the members of the Army Nurse Corps, I extend congratulations on the occasion of your retirement after 21 years of dedicated and outstanding active federal service.

Your active duty tours reflect several years as a medical-surgical clinician and you are to be commended for having made significant contributions in Vietnam as a provider of nursing care on the wards during the first tour and in anesthesia the nursing during the second tour.

Our demonstrated exceptional knowledge and expertise have proven an invaluable resource to the army nurse corps and the AMEDD and resulted in your being awarded the Surgeon General's coveted "A" prefix. In your last assignment as the director of anesthesia for a nursing phase two at Walter Reed Army Medical center, the high standards you set were a superb example for those for whom you provided the specialty education and anesthesia nursing. The impact you made during these years will be of lasting value to the AMEDD.

The Army Nurse Corps' good fortune to have had you on the team and we wish you continued health, happiness and success in your well deserved retirement.

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

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.

2. The Board carefully considered the applicant's contentions, his record of service, the block 11 entries on his DD Form 214, the OTSG Memoranda and the Certificate awarding the "A" prefix to the applicant. Based on a preponderance of evidence, the Board determined that a correction to add the prefix to his DD Form 214 was warranted.

BOARD VOTE:

Mbr 1 Mbr 2 Mbr 3

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

BOARD DETERMINATION/RECOMMENDATION:

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, for the period ending 30 September 1987 to add in Block 11(Primary Specialty Number, Title and Years and Months in Specialty) 9A - Anesthesia Nursing Proficiency Designator, 3 years, 3 months.

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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.

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 611-1 (Military Occupational Classification Structure Development and Implementation) prescribes the policies and responsibilities for developing, maintaining, evaluating, and revising the military occupational classification and structure for the Army. The Office of the Surgeon General provides functional and technical advice, recommendations for development and refinement of personnel management and structure for medical personnel. Officer occupational identifiers are authorized to identify personnel and manning positions. Positions in requirements and authorization documents must be classified and coded in the appropriate identifier (area of concentration, MOS, skill identifier, special qualification identifier and additional skill identifier). Officer identifiers are shown in Department of the Army Pamphlet (DA PAM) 611-21 (Military Occupational Classification and Structure).

- area of concentration codes are identified by three characters (two numeric and one alpha)
- skill identifiers are two characters either numeric or alpha or alpha-numeric combinations used to identify specific requirements of a position
- designation of degrees of proficiency denote degrees of proficiency in formal training and professional experience
- area of concentration for medical officers generally defines the scope of an occupational area with regard to the level of skills, grade, echelon or responsibility involved
- 9A proficiency designator (medical)

3. DA PAM 611-21 provides guidance to individuals, commanders, personnel managers, proponents, and combat and material developers. It contains information on the classification of individuals by identifiers including officer branches, functional areas or medical functional areas and skill identifiers. Specific information is found on a secure website. In pertinent part, the medical proficiency identifier is not an additional skill identifier. For the Army Nurse Corps in area of concentration 66, The Surgeon General's Classification Board renders individual decisions based on applications submitted by nurse supervisors or superiors.

4. OTSG Regulation 15-35 (Boards, Commissions, and Committees – Award of the “A” Proficiency Designator) establishes the criteria and board process for selecting medical

professionals for this specific identifier known as "9A." Upon nomination and selection, a nurse will receive a DA Form 2442 (Certificate of Achievement).

5. Army Regulation 635-5 (Separation Documents), then in effect, stated to list awards and decorations for all periods of service in the priority sequence specified in Army Regulation 600-8-22 (Military Awards), which gives the order of precedence for awards and decorations. Only decorations, medals, and ribbons are listed. Certificates of achievement, letters of appreciation, and similar documents are not listed on the DD Form 214.

6. Army Regulation 600-8-22 (Military Awards) prescribes policy, criteria, and administrative instructions concerning individual and unit military awards. This regulation does not show the "A" Proficiency Designator for Outstanding Qualification in the Field of Nursing" as an authorized award, decoration, or badge. Additionally, there are no provisions for adding a Certificate of Achievement to block 13 (Decorations, Medals, Badges, Citations and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized).

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//