

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 10 December 2024

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240004929

APPLICANT REQUESTS: correction of his DD Form 214 (Report of Separation from Active Duty) to show award of the Army Good Conduct Medal and Overseas Service Ribbon.

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- DD Form 214 (Report of Separation from Active Duty)
- Veterans.com Article – Army Good Conduct Medal
- Wikipedia – Overseas Service Ribbon

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 should have received the Army Good Conduct Medal while in Vietnam. He had no bad service and never received any Article 15's. He is also requesting the Overseas Service Ribbon. He contends he was overseas in a Combat Engineer Unit that participated in NATO Exercises, Reforger 1974 and Reforger 1975. He attempted to get the awards at Fort Dix at discharge but was informed they did not have enough time.
3. The applicant provides articles retrieved from online sources outlining eligibility requirements for the Army Good Conduct Medal and Overseas Service Ribbon.
4. A review of the applicant's service record shows:
  - a. He was inducted into the Army of the United States on 8 January 1973. He held military occupational specialty (MOS) 51N, Water Supply Specialist.

b. His DA Form 2-1 (Personnel Qualification Records) shows he served in Germany from on or about 6 November 1973 to on or about 11 December 1975. It also shows he was awarded or authorized:

- National Defense Service Medal
- Sharpshooter Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-16)
- Expert Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Hand Grenade Bar

c. His DA Forms 2166-4 (Enlisted Efficiency Report) shows he received "above average, excellent and outstanding" conduct and efficiency ratings from date of entry through his separation from active service. The available service record was void of derogatory information and/or nonjudicial punishment.

d. His service record was void of recommendations or orders directing award of the Army Good Conduct Medal.

e. He was honorably released from active duty on 12 December 1975. His DD Form 214 shows he completed 2 years, 11 months, and 5 days of active service with no lost time. It also shows he completed 2 years, 1 month, and 6 days of foreign service. He was awarded or authorized:

- National Defense Service Medal
- Sharpshooter Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-16)
- Expert Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Hand Grenade Bar

5. By regulation (AR 672-5-1), the Army Good Conduct Medal was awarded for each 3 years of continuous enlisted active service, 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 and there must be no convictions by a court-martial. 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. he completed 3 years; he received all excellent conduct and efficiency ratings throughout his military service; and there is no record of a court-martial conviction

6. By regulation (AR 600-8-22), the Overseas Service Ribbon was established by the Secretary of the Army on 10 April 1981. Effective 1 August 1981, all members of the Active Army, Army National Guard, and Army Reserve in an active Reserve status are eligible for the award for successful completion of overseas tours. The award may be awarded retroactively to those personnel who were credited with a normal overseas tour completion before 1 August 1981 provided they had an Active Army status on or after 1 August 1981.

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 applicant's contentions, the military record, and regulatory guidance were carefully considered

a. Army Good Conduct Medal: Grant. The Board noted that the applicant served continuously on active duty from 8 January 1973 through 12 December 1975. He completed 2 years, 11 months, and 5 days of active service with no lost time. His record does not reflect any lost time or any derogatory information that would have disqualified him from receiving his first award of the Army Good Conduct Medal, or a commander's disqualifying memorandum for this award. The Board determined he met the criteria to be awarded the Army Good Conduct Medal (1st Award).

b. Overseas Service Ribbon: Deny. The Overseas Service Ribbon was established by the Secretary of the Army on 10 April 1981 and is awarded for successful completion of overseas tours. The award may be awarded retroactively to those personnel who were credited with a normal overseas tour completion before 1 August 1981 provided they had an Active Army status on or after 1 August 1981. The applicant did not have an active Army status on or after 1 August 181. Therefore, he does not meet the criteria for this award.

BOARD VOTE:

| <u>Mbr 1</u> | <u>Mbr 2</u> | <u>Mbr 3</u> |                      |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------------|
| :            | :            | :            | 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 the applicant, the Army Good Conduct Medal for service during the period 8 January 1973 through 12 December 1975
- Adding awards of the Army Good Conduct (1st Award) to his DD Form 214

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 award of the Overseas Service Ribbon.



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, USC, section 1552(b), provides that applications for correction of military records must be filed within three years after discovery of the alleged error or injustice. This provision of law also allows the Army Board for Correction of Military Records (ABCMR) to excuse an applicant's failure to timely file within the three-year statute of limitations if the ABCMR determines it would be in the interest of justice to do so.
2. Army Regulation 672-5-1 (Military 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.

3. Army Regulation 600-8-22 (Military Awards) states the Overseas Service Ribbon was established by the Secretary of the Army on 10 April 1981. Effective 1 August 1981, all members of the Active Army, Army National Guard, and Army Reserve in an active Reserve status are eligible for the award for successful completion of overseas tours. The award may be awarded retroactively to those personnel who were credited with a normal overseas tour completion before 1 August 1981 provided they had an Active Army status on or after 1 August 1981.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//