

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 19 December 2024

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240004943

APPLICANT REQUESTS: correction of his DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) to show:

- Meritorious Unit Commendation
- Southwest Asia Service Medal with three bronze service stars

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- Southwest Asia Service Medal Information from the Air Force's Personnel Center
- 926th Medical Detachment Lineage and Honors
- Letter to the Applicant from the Board for Correction of Naval Records, 13 March 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 deployed with the 926th Medical Detachment to Saudi Arabia from 7 September 1990 to 12 April 1991. He believes he is entitled to a Meritorious Unit Commendation, and a third service star for his service in Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Specifically, for the Southwest Asia Cease-Fire Campaign. As you will see in his DD Form 214, it does not list those awards. He also includes the lineage and honors information for the 926th Medical Detachment, which was taken directly from the Center of Military History.
3. A review of the applicant's service record shows:
 - a. He enlisted in the Regular Army on 2 February 1989.
 - b. He DA Form 2-1 (Personnel Qualification Record – Part II) shows:

- he served overseas from 9 September 1990 to 9 April 1991; the location is not listed
- his unit of assignment during this period is not listed

c. The Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) compiled the Desert Shield/Storm Data Base. The primary Desert Shield/Storm file contains one record for each active duty member who participated in-theater between 2 August 1990 and 31 July 1991 and one record for each Reservist, National Guard member, or retiree who was activated or federalized in response to Desert Shield/Desert Storm. For Reservists and Guard members, the file includes those persons activated or federalized from 2 August 1990 through 31 December 1991. This file shows the applicant served in Southwest Asia from 7 September 1990 to 10 April 1991, a period of 7 months and 4 days.

d. He was honorably released from active duty on 30 July 1992. His DD Form 214 shows he completed 3 years, 5 months, and 29 days of active service. It also shows in item 13 (Decorations, Medals, Badges, Commendations, Citations and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized):

- Army Service Ribbon
- National Defense Service Medal
- Army Lapel button
- Army Good Conduct Medal (1st Award)
- Sharpshooter Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar
- Expert Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Grenade Bar
- Army Commendation Medal
- Southwest Asia Service Medal with two bronze service stars
- Kuwait Liberation Medal

4. By regulation (AR 635-5), The DD Form 214 is a summary of the Soldier's most recent period of continuous active duty. The information entered thereon reflects the conditions as they existed at the time of separation.

- Item 12f (Foreign Service) reflected an entry of the total amount of foreign service completed during the period by the DD Form 214
- Item 13 reflected all awards and decorations
- Item 18 (Remarks), for an active-duty Soldier deployed with his or her unit during their continuous period of active service, enter the statement "Service in (Name of County Deployed), From (inclusive dates YYYYMMDD-YYYYMMDD)

5. By regulation 600-8-22 (Military Awards) states:

a. The Southwest Asia Service Medal is awarded to members of the Armed Forces of the United States serving in Southwest Asia and contiguous waters or airspace there over, on or after 2 August 1990 to 30 November 1995. A bronze service star is authorized for wear with this medal for participation in each credited campaign. Approved designated campaigns are:

- Defense of Saudi Arabia (2 August 1990 to 16 January 1991)
- Liberation and Defense of Kuwait (17 January to 11 April 1991)
- Cease-Fire Campaign (12 April 1991 to 30 November 1995)

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

6. Army General Orders Unit Award Index shows the 926th Medical detachment was awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation.

BOARD DISCUSSION:

After reviewing the application, all supporting documents, and the evidence found within the military record, the Board found that relief was warranted. The applicant's contentions, the military record, and regulatory guidance were carefully considered.

a. Meritorious Unit Commendation: Grant. The applicant's unit in SWA, 926th Medical Detachment was awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation for the period of service from 7 September 1990 to 16 April 1991. The applicant is eligible for this award and correction of his DD Form 214 to show it.

b. Southwest Asia Service Medal with 3 bronze service stars: Grant. The applicant served in SWA from 9 September 1990 to 9 April 1991. He qualifies for 3 instead of 2 bronze service stars with his Southwest Asia Service Medal.

c. The applicant also meets the criteria for awards of the Kuwait Liberation Medal (K) and Kuwait Liberation Medal (SA).

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 the Army records of the individual concerned be corrected by amending his DD Form 214 as follows:

- Delete Southwest Asia Service Medal with 2 bronze service stars and Kuwait Liberation Medal
- Add the Southwest Asia Service Medal with 3 bronze service stars, Kuwait Liberation Medal (K), Kuwait Liberation Medal (SA), and Meritorious Unit Commendation.

12/20/2024
<div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin-bottom: 5px;">X</div> <div style="background-color: black; width: 150px; height: 1.2em; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> <hr style="border: 0.5px solid black;"/> <div style="font-weight: bold; margin-bottom: 5px;">CHAIRPERSON</div> <div style="background-color: black; width: 80px; height: 1.2em;"></div>

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 General Orders Unit Award Index provides unit awards are required by regulation to be published in a Department of the Army General Order. General Orders are the highest form of orders issued by the Army and supersede all other forms of orders. General Orders 1994-12 shows the 926th Medical Detachment was awarded the MUC for the period of service from 7 September 1990 to 16 April 1991.

3. Army Regulation (AR) 635-5 (Separation Documents), in effect at the time, provided detailed instructions for completing separation documents, including the DD Form 214. It provides a brief, clear-cut record of all current active, prior active, and prior inactive duty service at the time of release from active duty, retirement, or discharge. The DD Form 214 is a summary of the Soldier's most recent period of continuous active duty. The information entered thereon reflects the conditions as they existed at the time of separation. It provided detailed instructions for completing separation documents, including the DD Form 214.

- Item 12f reflected an entry of the total amount of foreign service completed during the period by the DD Form 214
- Item 13 reflected all awards and decorations
- Item 18, for an active-duty Soldier deployed with his or her unit during their continuous period of active service, enter the statement "Service in (Name of County Deployed), From (inclusive dates YYYYMMDD-YYYYMMDD)

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a. The Southwest Asia Service Medal is awarded to members of the Armed Forces of the United States serving in Southwest Asia and contiguous waters or airspace there over, on or after 2 August 1990 to 30 November 1995. A bronze service star is authorized for wear with this medal for participation in each credited campaign.

Approved designated campaigns are:

- Defense of Saudi Arabia (2 August 1990 to 16 January 1991)
- Liberation and Defense of Kuwait (17 January to 11 April 1991)
- Cease-Fire Campaign (12 April 1991 to 30 November 1995)

(1) One bronze service star will be worn on the suspension and service ribbon of the SWASM for participation in each designated campaign.

(2) Service stars are authorized for wear on the following campaign and service medals and/or ribbons: SWASM.

b. The Meritorious Unit Commendation (Army) (previously called the Meritorious Service Unit Plaque) 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. Service in a combat zone is not required but must be directly related to the combat effort. Units based in CONUS are excluded from this award, as are other units outside the area of operation. The unit must display such outstanding devotion and superior performance of exceptionally difficult tasks as to set it apart and above other units with similar missions. The degree of achievement required is the same as that which would warrant award of the LM to an individual. Recommendations for units larger than a brigade will not be submitted. For services performed during World War II, awards will be made only to service units and only for services performed between 1 January 1944 and 15 September 1946.

(1) Effective 1 March 1961, the MUC was authorized for units and/or detachments of the Armed Forces of the United States for exceptionally meritorious conduct in performance of outstanding services for at least 6 continuous months in support of military operations. Service(s), as used in this paragraph, is interpreted to relate to combat service support type activities and not to the type of activities performed by senior headquarters, combat, or combat support units.

(2) Effective 11 September 2001, the MUC is authorized for units and/or detachments of the Armed Forces of the United States for exceptionally meritorious performance for at least 6 continuous months (a month is considered 30 calendar days) during military operations against an armed enemy without regard to type of duties performed or the type of unit performing the duties.

(3) Intermediate level commanders will recommend approval or disapproval for each recommendation and forward it to the next higher headquarters. If disapproval is recommended, the reasons will be cited and forwarded. The MUC is the only unit award established to recognize exceptional meritorious service during military operations against an armed enemy. Accordingly, the recommendation can only be approved or disapproved. It cannot be upgraded or downgraded.

(4) The DCS, G-1 is approval authority for the MUC unless the authority is delegated in writing in accordance with wartime awards approval authority. Once a recommendation is submitted into official channels, it will process through the chain of

command to the approval authority for decision. For all MUCs approved in theater, authorized commanders will provide a copy of the approved DA Form 7594 with all supporting documents to HRC, ADB. Refer to table 7–1 on initial coordinating and processing of the MUC.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//