

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 6 March 2025

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240005457

APPLICANT AND REPRESENTATIVE REQUESTS:

- award of the Vietnam Medals
- award Unit Commendation(s)
- award of the Army Good Conduct Medal (AGCM)

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- DD Form 214 (Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge)

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 representative states that the applicant requests the correction of his military records to reflect all authorized awards, training, and other appropriate items on his DD214. Specifically, he seeks the addition of the Army Good Conduct Medal (AGCM) to properly recognize his contributions and dedicated service, as well as the correction of Vietnam-related awards in accordance with regulatory changes since his separation. Additionally, he requests the inclusion of any missing awards or training. The applicant also asks for the forwarding of all available military and medical records to allow his family to preserve them and to support future Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) applications.
3. The applicant provides an DD Form 214 dated 1 July 1967.
4. A review of the applicant's service record shows:

a. He was inducted into the Army of the United States on 19 August 1965.

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

- block 31 (Foreign Service)
  - 7 July 1966 through 6 July 1967 – Vietnam-United States Army Pacific Command (USAPAC)
- block 38 (Record of assignments)
  - 7 July 1966 D Company (CO) Engineer Battalion (BN), USAPAC Vietnam
  - 17 Jun 1967 C Company (CO) Engineer Battalion (BN), USAPAC Vietnam
  - His conduct was marked as excellence from 23 August 1965 through 29 June 1967
- block 41 (Awards and Decorations)
  - Expert Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle (M-14)
  - National Defense Service Medal
  - Vietnam Campaign Medal
  - Vietnam Service Medal

c. On 1 July 1967, he was honorably transferred from active duty. His DD Form 214 shows he completed 1 year, 10 months and 13 days with no lost time. It also shows he was awarded or authorized:

- National Defense Service Medal
- Vietnam Campaign Medal
- Vietnam Service Medal
- Expert Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-14)

5. A review of the applicant's record confirms he is eligible for an award and campaign credits that are not recorded on his DD Form 214. The entries will be added to his DD Form 214 as administrative corrections and will not be considered by the Board.

6. Department of the Army General Orders (DAGO) Number 5, dated 1969, awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation to 577th Engineer Battalion, for service in Vietnam for the period of 2 August 1966 to 11 June 1967.

7. Department of the Army General Orders (DAGO) Number 48, dated 1969, awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation to 577th Engineer Battalion, for service in Vietnam for the period of 12 June 1967 to 7 December 1968.

8. By regulation (AR 670-1) For Vietnam service, one overseas service bar was authorized for each period of 6 months active Federal service as a member of a U.S. Service in Vietnam from 1 July 1958 to 28 March 1973. Both the month of arrival and the month of departure from Vietnam were counted as whole months for credit toward the overseas service bar.

9. 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.

#### 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 found that the applicant received "excellent" conduct and efficiency ratings throughout his period of active-duty service from 19 August 1965 to 1 July 1967. In accordance with regulatory guidance, the Board determined that the applicant met the eligibility criteria for the Army Good Conduct Medal (1st Award). Based on this, the Board granted relief to correct the applicant's records to reflect award of 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

XX	XXX	XXX	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 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 awarding him the Army Good Conduct Medal (1st Award) for exemplary service from 19 August 1965 to 1 July 1967. and adding the medal to his DD Form 214 for the period ending 1 July 1967.

**//SIGNED//**

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 service records show he is authorized additional campaign credit not annotated on his DD Form 214. As a result, amend his DD Form 214 to show:

- Delete:
  - Vietnam Campaign Medal
  - Vietnam Service Medal
- Add:
  - Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with 1960 Device
  - Vietnam Service Medal with 2 Bronze Stars
  - Meritorious Unit Commendation with 2 Bronze Clusters

- Overseas Service Bar -2nd award

## 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. Service medals and awards are not issued by the Army Board for Correction of Military Records (ABCMR). However, the applicant may obtain his medals by submitting his request in writing to: National Personnel Records Center, ATTN: Army Reference Branch, 9700 Page Boulevard, St. Louis, Missouri 63132-5200. This issue will not be further addressed in this Record of Proceedings.
3. Army Regulation 600-8-22 (Military Awards) states there is no automatic entitlement to an award upon departure either from an assignment or from the service.
4. Army Regulation 635-5 (Separation Documents) states to list awards and decorations for all periods of service in the priority sequence specified in Army Regulation 600-8-22. Army Regulation 600-8-22 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.
5. Department of the Army Pamphlet 672-3 (Unit Citation and Campaign Participation Credit Register) assist commanders and personnel officers in determining or establishing the eligibility of individual members for campaign participation credit, assault landing credit, and unit citation badges awarded during the Vietnam Conflict.
  - a. Department of the Army General Orders (DAGO) Number 5, dated 1969, awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation to 577th Engineer Battalion, for service in Vietnam for the period of 2 August 1966 to 11 June 1967.
  - b. Department of the Army General Orders (DAGO) Number 48, dated 1969, awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation to 577th Engineer Battalion, for service in Vietnam for the period of 12 June 1967 to 7 December 1968.
6. 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.

7. For Vietnam service, one overseas service bar was authorized for each period of 6 months active Federal service as a member of a U.S. Service in Vietnam from 1 July 1958 to 28 March 1973. Both the month of arrival and the month of departure from Vietnam were counted as whole months for credit toward the overseas service bar.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//