

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 29 January 2025

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240005560

APPLICANT REQUESTS: correction to his DD Form 214 (Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge), ending 2 February 1971 to reflect the social security number (SSN) as [REDACTED] vice [REDACTED].

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- DD Form 214, ending 2 February 1971
- Social Security Administration (SSA) Letter
- Social Security Card

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, his DD Form 214 contains the wrong social security number. He is seeking compensation benefits and needs it corrected.
3. The applicant provides a letter from the SSA, along with his social security card, listing his correct social security number as [REDACTED].
4. A review of the applicant's available service record reflects the following:
 - a. On 25 July 1966, he enlisted in the Regular Army. The DD Form 4 (Enlistment Record) did not contain his SSN.
 - b. His DA Form 20 (Enlisted Qualification Record) shows his social security number listed as [REDACTED]. Additionally, it shows he served in Vietnam from 29 September 1967 to 28 September 1968 for a period of 12 months. It also shows he was awarded or authorized:

- Vietnam Service Medal
- National Defense Service Medal
- Vietnam Campaign Medal
- 2 Oversea Service Bars
- Sharpshooter Marksmanship Badge with Rifle Bar M-14

c. The SSN listed in his service record, remains consistent throughout, as the contested SSN.

d. On 2 February 1971, he was discharged as under honorable conditions. His DD Form 214 shows a net active service of 3 years. Block 3 (Social Security Number) reflects [REDACTED]. Block 24 (Decorations, Medals, Badges, Citations and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized) shows he was awarded the following:

- National Defense Service Medal
- Vietnam Service Medal
- Vietnam Campaign Medal
- Sharpshooter Marksmanship Badge with Rifle Bar M-14
- Expert Marksmanship Badge with Rifle Bar M-16
- 2 Oversea Service Bars

5. 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. The entries will be added to his DD Form 214 as administrative corrections and will not be considered by the Board.

6. By regulation (AR 635-5), the DD Form 214 is a summary of the Soldier's most recent period of continuous active duty. 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 information entered thereon reflects the conditions as they existed at the time of separation. Source documents include the DA Form 20 (Enlisted Qualification Record), DA Form 24, DD Form 4, as well as orders. The name to be shown on the DD Form 214 is taken from these source documents.

7. Department of the Army General Orders (DAGO) Number 8, dated 1974, awarded the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation with Palm to Headquarters, United States Army Vietnam, for service in Vietnam for the period of 20 July 1965 to 28 March 1973.

BOARD DISCUSSION:

1. After reviewing the application, all supporting documents, and the evidence found within the military record, the Board found that relief was not 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. The Board determined the evidence presented does not demonstrate the existence of a probable error or injustice. The applicant used the contested social security number (SSN) during his entire period of service. Upon review of the applicant's petition and available military records the Board determined the overall merits of this case are insufficient as a basis for correction of the records of the individual concerned.
2. The Board recommends the applicant seek assistance directly from the Social Security Administration (SSA) to resolve the discrepancy and request consolidation of the two SSNs. Once corrected, the SSA can notify the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to ensure consistency across federal records. The applicant is advised that a copy of this decisional document, along with his application and the supporting evidence he provided, will be filed in his official military records. This should serve to clarify any questions or confusion regarding the difference in the SSN recorded in his military records and to satisfy his desire to have his SSN documented in his military records. Based on this the Board denied relief.
3. The Army has an interest in maintaining the integrity of its records for historical purposes. The information in those records must reflect the conditions and circumstances that existed at the time the records were created. In the absence of evidence that shows a material error or injustice, there is a reluctance to recommend that those records be changed.
4. 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:

<u>Mbr 1</u>	<u>Mbr 2</u>	<u>Mbr 3</u>	
:	:	:	GRANT FULL RELIEF
:	:	:	GRANT PARTIAL RELIEF
:	:	:	GRANT FORMAL HEARING
XXX	XXX	XXX	DENY APPLICATION

BOARD DETERMINATION/RECOMMENDATION:

Except for the correction addressed in Administrative Note(s) below, the Board found the evidence presented does not demonstrate the existence of a probable error or injustice. Therefore, the Board determined the overall merits of this case are insufficient as a basis for correction of the records of the individual concerned.

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 service records show he is authorized additional awards not annotated on his DD Form 214 for the service period ending 2 February 1971. As a result, amend his DD Form 214 to add the following awards:

- Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation
- 4 bronze service stars to his already awarded Vietnam Service Medal

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 635-5 (Separation Documents), in effect at the time, states the DD Form 214 is a summary of the Soldier's most recent period of continuous active duty. 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 information entered thereon reflects the conditions as they existed at the time of separation. Source documents include the DA Form 20 (Enlisted Qualification Record), DA Form 24, DD Form 4, as well as orders. The name to be shown on the DD Form 214 is taken from these source documents.
3. Department of the Army Pamphlet 672-3 (Unit Citations 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. Department of the Army General Orders (DAGO) Number 8, dated 1974, awarded the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation with Palm to Headquarters, United States Army Vietnam, for service in Vietnam for the period of 20 July 1965 to 28 March 1973.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//