

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 13 March 2025

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240006281

APPLICANT REQUESTS: correction of his DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) to add the following awards in item 13 (Decorations, Medals, Badges...):

- Korea Defense Service Medal
- National Defense Service Medal
- Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with palm device

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

- Online Application (2)
- DD Form 214, for the period ending 6 February 1989
- DD Form 215 (Correction to DD Form 214)
- DA Form 2-1 (Personnel Qualification Record – Part II), page 1

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 served in Korea for 365 days. The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) was supposed to award him the Korea Defense Service Medal retroactively after his discharge. This did not happen. Army Human Resource Command (AHRC) never recorded his award of the National Defense Service Medal or Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with palm device unit citation.

3. The applicant enlisted in the Regular Army on 7 February 1985. He served in the Republic of Korea from 30 September 1985 to 24 April 1986.

4. He was relieved from active duty with an honorable characterization of service and transferred to the Individual Ready Reserve on 6 February 1989, under the provisions of Army Regulation 635-200 (Personnel Separations – Enlisted Personnel), Chapter 4, by

reason of expiration term of service. His last duty assignment was Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment. He completed 4 years of net active service. His DD Form 214 and corresponding DD Form 215 show he was awarded or authorized the following:

- Army Lapel Button
- Parachutist Badge
- Army Good Conduct Medal
- Expert Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Pistol bar (.45 caliber) and Rifle bar (M-16)
- Overseas Service Ribbon
- Army Commendation Medal
- Army Achievement Medal
- Driver and Mechanic Badge with driver wheeled vehicle bar

BOARD DISCUSSION:

After reviewing the application and all supporting documents, the Board determined partial relief was warranted. The applicant's contentions, the military record, and regulatory guidance were carefully considered. Based upon the available documentation, the Board made the following findings and recommendations related to the requested relief:

- add Korea Defense Service Medal: GRANT, based upon the information reflected below in the administrative notes.
- add National Defense Service Medal: GRANT, based upon the regulatory guidance and the applicant's military record showing he served during qualifying periods for the award.
- add Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with palm device: DENY, based upon the regulatory guidance and the applicant's military record failing to show he served in Vietnam during a qualifying period of service for the award.

BOARD VOTE:

Mbr 1 Mbr 2 Mbr 3

:	:	:	GRANT FULL RELIEF
:XXX	:XXX	:XXX	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 Army records of the individual concerned be corrected by amending the applicant's DD Form 214 by awarding and adding the National Defense Service Medal.
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 awarding the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with palm device.
3. Prior to closing the case, the Board noted the administrative note below from the analyst of record and recommended that change be completed to more accurately reflect the military service of the applicant.

//SIGNED//

X

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): amend the applicant's DD Form 214, item 13, to show award of the Korea Defense 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 Army Board for Correction of Military Records (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 600-8-22 (Military Awards) states:

a. The Korea Defense Service Medal is authorized for award to members of the Armed Forces of the United States who have served on active duty in support of the defense of the Republic of Korea. The period of eligibility is 28 July 1954 to a date to be determined by the Secretary of Defense.

b. The National Defense Service Medal is awarded for honorable active service for any period between 27 July 1950 and 27 July 1954, 1 January 1961 and 14 August 1974, 2 August 1990 and 30 November 1995, and 11 September 2001 and 31 December 2022.

c. The Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation was awarded by the Vietnamese government for valorous combat achievement for the period 8 February 1962 to 28 March 1973. It was awarded in four degrees as follows: with Palm device (Unit Level), with Gold Star (Corps Level), with Silver Star (Division Level), with Bronze Star (Regiment).

3. Department of the Army Pamphlet (DA PAM) 672-3 (Unit Citation and Campaign Participation Credit Register) lists the awards received by units serving in Vietnam. This pamphlet shows that 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment was cited for award of the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation for the period October 1966 to 28 July 1969 by Department of the Army General Order Number 3, dated 1970.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//