

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 8 April 2025

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240006411

APPLICANT REQUESTS: reconsideration of his previous request for correction of his DD Form 214 (Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge), for the period ending 28 December 1971, to show award of multiple Air Medals.

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record), 12 March 2024
- DA Form 759 (Individual Flight Record and Flight Certificate – Army), 26 October 1970
- Four DA Form 759-1 (Individual Flight Record and Flight Certificate – Army), covering the period from February 1970 through May 1970
- Five pages of flight logs, covering the period from June 1970 through October 1970

FACTS:

1. Incorporated herein by reference are military records which were summarized in the previous consideration of the applicant's case by the Army Board for Correction of Military Records (ABCMR) in Docket Number AR20230006083 on 30 November 2023.

2. The applicant states, in effect, based on the number of hours he flew he is authorized award of additional Air Medals.

3. The applicant provided a DA Form 759 (Individual Flight Record and Flight Certificate – Army), 26 October 1970, shows his service with 48th Aviation Company, (Attack Helicopter), Vietnam, from February 1970 to October 1970. This form captures his completion of 455 flight hours. The corresponding DD Forms 759-1 and flight logs show he completed 169 combat missions.

4. His record shows:

- a. He enlisted in the Regular Army on 14 February 1969.

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

- Item 31 (Foreign Service) – 21 November 1969 to 6 November 1970, U.S. Army Pacific - Vietnam (USARPAC)
- Item 38 (Record of Assignments) shows during his service in Vietnam he was assigned to 48th Aviation Company, 1st Aviation Brigade from 28 November 1969 to 29 October 1970

c. Headquarters, 1st Aviation Brigade, General Orders 3414, 9 May 1970, awarded him the Air Medal for the period 9 February 1970 to 16 February 1970 in the Republic of Vietnam.

d. His DD Form 214 shows he was honorably released from active duty on 28 December 1971 in the grade of E-5. He completed 2 years, 10 months, and 15 days of net active service. His awards are listed as the:

- Army Commendation Medal
- National Defense Service Medal
- Vietnam Service Medal
- Vietnam Campaign Medal
- Sharpshooter Qualification Badge with Rifle bar (M-16)

4. On 30 November 2023, in Docket Number AR20230006083, the ABCMR denied his request for award of additional Air Medals. The Board found the applicant's record contained one set of orders awarding him the Air Medal. There were no other orders confirming additional awards of the Air Medal. The DA Form 759 he provided was incomplete. It did not state the type of flights or category of missions the applicant completed. Thus, the Board was unable to determine if he qualified for additional awards of the Air Medal.

5. On 26 December 2023, he was issued a DD Form 215 (Correction to DD Form 214), to show award of the Air Medal he was awarded in the Headquarters, 1st Aviation Brigade, General Orders 3414, 9 May 1970.

BOARD DISCUSSION:

After reviewing the application and all supporting documents, the Board determined 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 and available military records, the Board found that the applicant completed 218 hours of Category I combat missions, which qualifies him to be awarded Air Medal (Numeral 8).

BOARD VOTE:

Mbr 1 Mbr 2 Mbr 3

:XXX	:XXX	:XXX	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 Army records of the individual concerned be corrected by amending the applicant's DD Form 215, dated 26 December 2023, by removing the Air Medal and adding Air Medal (Numeral 8).

//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.

REFERENCES:

1. Army Regulation 15-185 (Army Board for Correction of Military Records) prescribes the policies and procedures for correction of military records by the Secretary of the Army acting through the ABCMR. The ABCMR will decide cases on the evidence of record; it is not an investigative body. The ABCMR begins its consideration of each case with the presumption of administrative regularity. The applicant has the burden of proving an error or injustice by a preponderance of evidence.

2. Army Regulation 600-8-22 (Military Awards) prescribes Army policy, criteria, and administrative instructions concerning individual and unit military awards.

a. The Air Medal is awarded in time of war for heroism and for meritorious achievement or service while participating in aerial flight. This award is primarily intended for personnel on flying status but may also be awarded to those personnel whose combat duties require them to fly; for example, personnel in the attack elements of units involved in air-land assaults against an armed enemy. As with all personal decorations, formal recommendations, approval through the chain of command, and announcement in orders are required.

(1) Numerals, starting with 2, will be used to denote second and subsequent awards of the Air Medal.

(2) All Air Medal recommendations that are downgraded will be approved as an Army Commendation Medal.

3. Army Regulation 95-1 (Flight Regulation) provided guidance for aircraft operations, crew requirements, and flight rules. The regulation specifies that each crew member must present his or her individual flight records to the unit of assignment. The flying experience and qualification data for each rated crew member and flight surgeon in aviation service and each non-rated crew member will be documented on several forms among which are the DA Form 759 and the DA Form 759-1. The "Mission Symbol" column on the DA Form 759-1 lists a single character to identify the type of mission performed. During the Vietnam War, the following mission symbols were used:

Mission Symbol	Service Missions
A	Acceptance Test Flight
F	Maintenance Flight
S	Service Mission
T	Training Flight
X	Experimental Test Flight
C	Combat Mission

4. U.S. Army Vietnam Regulation 672-1 (Decorations and Awards) provided guidelines for award of the Air Medal. It stated that passenger personnel who did not participate in an air assault were not eligible for the award based upon sustained operations. It defined terms and provided guidelines for the award based upon the number and types of missions or hours. Twenty-five category I missions (air assault and equally dangerous missions) and accrual of a minimum of 25 hours of flight time while engaged in category I missions was the standard established for which sustained operations were deemed worthy of recognition by an award of the Air Medal. However, the regulation was clear that these guidelines were considered only a departure point.

a. Combat missions were divided into three categories:

- category I mission was defined as a mission performed in an assault role in which a hostile force was engaged and was characterized by delivery of ordnance against the hostile force or delivery of friendly troops or supplies into the immediate combat operations area. The departure of an aircraft from a base camp to a forward staging area loading zone for the pickup of troops or supplies for delivery to a nonsecure landing zone and return will constitute one mission. One additional mission may be credited for each additional landing zone used. Types of Category I missions are:
 - (1) Combat assault
 - (2) Armed helicopter fire support
 - (3) Delivery of supplies into the assault area
 - (4) Aero-medical evacuation from a hostile area
 - (5) Aircraft recovery from a hostile area
 - (6) Airborne command post when landing in the assault area is required and is made
 - (7) Visual reconnaissance connected with a combat assault
 - (8) Armed reconnaissance
 - (9) Chemical spray/defoliation operations in a hostile area
- category II mission was characterized by support rendered a friendly force immediately before, during, or immediately following a combat operation, but not connected with a combat assault. Departure from a base of operations on a flight or a series of flights and return in the course of a single combat operation will be credited as one mission. Types of Category II missions are
 - (1) Air and/ or parachute resupply not connected with a combat assault
 - (2) Forward air control
 - (3) Artillery adjustment
 - (4) Aircraft recovery not connected with a combat assault
 - (5) Aero-medical evacuation not connected with a combat assault

- (6) Flare drop-in support of a specified combat operation
- (7) Airborne command post when landing in the assault area is not required
- (8) Troop lift in support of combat operations not connected with a combat assault
- (9) Interdiction
- (10) Air Cover
- (11) Photo reconnaissance
- (12) Visual reconnaissance not connected with a combat assault
- (13) Defoliation and chemical spray operations
- (14) Electronic surveillance
- (15) Convoy control

- category III mission was characterized by support of friendly forces not connected with an immediate combat operation, but which must have been accomplished at altitudes which made the aircraft at times vulnerable to small arms fire or under hazardous weather or terrain conditions. Departure from a base of operations of a flight or a series of flights and return will be credited as one mission. Types of Category III missions are:

- (1) Transport of troops under conditions noted in above paragraph
- (2) Search and rescue
- (3) Aircraft recovery from permanent installations
- (4) Aero-medical evacuation from permanent installations
- (5) Flare drop
- (6) Air land resupply

b. To be recommended for award of the Air Medal, an individual must have completed a minimum of

- 25 category I missions and has accrued a minimum of 25 hours of flight time while engaged in Category I missions
- 50 category II missions, and has accrued a minimum of 50 hours of flight time while engaged in Category II missions
- 100 category III missions and has accrued a minimum of 100 hours of flight time while engaged in Category III missions

5. Since various types of missions would have been completed in accumulating flight time toward award of an Air Medal for sustained operations, different computations would have had to be made to combine category I, II, and III flight times and adjust it to a common denominator.

6. The individual's accomplishments and service for the entire group of missions must reflect meritorious performance throughout, with no instance of nonprofessionals, mediocrity or failure to display an offensive spirit. (The use of a specific number of missions for award consideration is a departure point only). Performance of duty must have been clearly exceptional in every respect during the period for which recommended.

7. Issue of General Orders and Certificates: a maximum of two general orders awarding the Air Medal for meritorious achievement will be issued to eligible recipients during a tour of duty in the Republic of Vietnam (RVN) or assignment to the same organization. The first general order will be issued for an individual's basic award. The second general order will cover subsequent awards of the Air Medal during the member's tour of assignment and will be issued upon individual's termination of tour or reassignment to another organization.

- a. Certificates will be issued in conjunction with all general orders
- b. General Orders and certificates will be issued for each award of the Air Medal for heroism

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//