

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 23 January 2025

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240006840

APPLICANT REQUESTS: correction of his DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) to show a different social security number (SSN).

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- Self-authored statement
- DD Form 214
- Veterans Administration Certificate of Eligibility
- Honorable Discharge Certificate
- Social Security Statement
- 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 after an honorable discharge from active duty in 1985, he had his SSN changed for "personal religious reasons." He is requesting that his DD Form 214 be updated to reflect his new SSN. The change will facilitate his ability to access Veteran benefits.
3. The applicant provides, in part:
 - a. A Veterans Administration Certificate of Eligibility listing his eligibility for certain benefits with the contested SSN, [REDACTED].
 - b. His SSN Card shows [REDACTED]. He states he surrendered his old social security card with the number [REDACTED].

- c. A Social Security statement dated 21 August 2020 shows both SSN's [REDACTED] (current) and [REDACTED] (past).
4. A review of the applicant's service record shows:
- a. He enlisted in the Regular Army on 26 February 1981. His DD Form 4 (Enlistment/Reenlistment Document-Armed Forces of the United States) shows in Block 2 (Social Security Account Number) the number [REDACTED], a number different from that requested.
- b. DA Form 2-1 (Personnel Qualification Record) shows in Block 2 (SSN) the number [REDACTED], a number different from that requested.
- c. He was honorably released from active duty on 25 February 1985. His DD Form 214 shows he completed 4 years of active service. Block 3 (Social Security Number) shows [REDACTED], a number different from that requested.
- d. The applicant's SSN was consistent throughout his service record showing [REDACTED] a number different from that requested.
5. By regulation (AR 635-8), 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. Block 3 (Social Security Number) states verify accuracy by reviewing initial enlistment contract and/or application for appointment. If the Soldier has had more than one social security number, list the other social security number of record in Block 18 (Remarks).

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 review based on law, policy, and regulation. The evidence presented does not demonstrate the existence of a probable error or injustice. The applicant used the contested social security number during his entire period of service. The Board determined the overall merits of this case are insufficient as a basis for correction of the records of the individual concerned. Based on the service record and a preponderance of the evidence, the Board denied relief. The Board minority noted the applicant legally changed his social security number and having it accurately reflected on his honorable DD Form 214 is important and voted to grant relief.
2. 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.
3. 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 social security number recorded in his military records and to satisfy his desire to have his social security number documented in his military records.

BOARD VOTE:

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

BOARD DETERMINATION/RECOMMENDATION:

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.

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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 Regulation 635-8 (Separation Processing and Documents), currently in effect, 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. Block 3 (Social Security Number) states verify accuracy by reviewing initial enlistment contract and/or application for appointment. If the Soldier has had more than one social security number, list the other social security number of record in Block 18 (Remarks).

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//