

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 25 February 2025

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240007106

APPLICANT REQUESTS: award of the Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB), the Jungle Expert Badge, and correction of his DD Form 214 (Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge) to show these badges.

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- Letter from the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC)
- NPRC Records Search-Request for Information

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 the referenced badges were left off his DD Form 214.
3. A review of the applicant's record revealed he is authorized awards not listed on his DD Form 214. These awards will be addressed through an administrative correction without action by the Board.
4. The applicant completed honorable active-duty training (ACDUTRA) from 5 December 1966 to 25 May 1967; he was released from active duty and reverted to the Indiana Army National Guard. He was issued a DD Form 214 for this period of service that shows he completed 5 months and 21 days of ACDUTRA, and he was awarded military occupational specialty (MOS) 11B (Light Weapons Infantryman).
5. He also completed honorable active service from 13 May 1968 to 17 October 1969. His DA Form 20 (Enlisted Qualification Record) shows in:
  - a. Block 31 (Foreign Service), no entries.

b. Block 38 (Record of Assignments), no entries for service in Vietnam.

6. The Republic of Vietnam (RVN) Casualty Roster shows the applicant was battle wounded on 3 July 1969 and he was hospitalized (not serious).

7. General Orders 2974, Headquarters II Field Force Vietnam, shows he was awarded the Air Medal in Vietnam on 22 October 1969 for meritorious achievement while participating in sustained aerial flight from 30 January to 24 June 1969. At the time he was assigned to Company D (Ranger), 151st Infantry.

8. On 17 October 1969, he was honorably released and transferred to the Indiana ARNG. His DD Form 214 shows his last duty assignment and major command as "Company D, 151st USARV." His MOS is listed as 11B. He completed 1 year, 5 months, and 5 days of net service this period. This service includes 9 months and 17 days of foreign service. His authorized awards are listed as the:

- National Defense Service Medal
- Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal
- Army Commendation Medal
- Vietnam Service Medal
- Purple Heart

9. On 25 April 2012, he was issued a DD Form 215 (Correction to DD Form 214) adding the Air Medal as an authorized award.

10. The applicant provided two documents he received from the NPRC advising him to contact the ABCMR concerning the correction of his records.

11. A review of the Awards and Decorations Computer-Assisted Retrieval System (ADCARS), an index of general orders issued during the Vietnam-era between 1965 and 1973, maintained by the Military Awards Branch of the U.S. Army Human Resources Command, failed to reveal orders awarding the CIB.

12. The CIB and the Jungle Expert Badge are not listed as authorized awards on his DD Form 214. His service record does not contain orders or any other documentation showing he was awarded the CIB nor the Jungle Expert Badge.

13. There is also no evidence that shows he completed Jungle Warfare Training. The badge is awarded upon completion of the course in accordance with local policies governing the training course.

14. Army Regulation 600-8-22 (Military Awards) does not list the Jungle Expert Badge as an authorized or approved award. The Department of the Army awards regulation

does not govern this badge, and as a result, it is not annotated on the DD Form 214, in accordance with AR 635-5 (Separation Documents).

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:

- award of the Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB): GRANT, based upon the available documentation including a medical document showing the applicant was injured as a result of combat and the applicant’s record showing he held a qualifying MOS for the CIB.
- award the Jungle Expert Badge: DENY, based upon the award not being authorized to annotate on a DD Form 214.

BOARD VOTE:

<u>Mbr 1</u>	<u>Mbr 2</u>	<u>Mbr 3</u>	
:	:	:	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 Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB).
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 Jungle Expert Badge.

//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): a review of the applicant's record found evidence sufficient to amend his DD Form 214 for the period ending 17 October 1969 by deleting the Vietnam Service Medal and adding the:

- Vietnam Service Medal with 3 bronze service stars
- Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation

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 (AR) 600-8-22 (Military Awards) provides Department of the Army policy, criteria, and administrative instructions concerning individual military decorations, service medals and ribbons, combat and special skill badges and tabs, unit decorations, trophies, and similar devices awarded in recognition of accomplishments. It prescribes the policies and procedures concerning U.S. Army awards to foreign military personnel and foreign decorations to U.S. Army personnel. Paragraph 8-6 provides the criteria for

award of the CIB. For award of the CIB a Soldier must meet the following three requirements:

a. Be an infantry Soldier satisfactorily performing infantry duties.

(1) A Soldier must be an Army infantry or SF officer (CMF or AOC 11 or 18) in the grade of COL/O-6 or below, or an Army enlisted Soldier or warrant officer with an infantry or SF MOS who, subsequent to 6 December 1941, has satisfactorily performed duty while assigned or attached as a member of an infantry, ranger, or SF unit of either a brigade, regimental, or smaller size during any period such unit was engaged in active ground combat.

(2) Eligibility for SF personnel in MOSs 18B, 18C, 18E, 18F, and 18Z (less 18D—SF medical sergeant) accrues from 20 December 1989. Retroactive awards of the CIB to SF personnel are not authorized prior to 20 December 1989.

b. Be assigned to an infantry unit during such time as the unit is engaged in active ground combat.

(1) A recipient must be personally present and under hostile fire while serving in an assigned infantry or SF primary duty, in a unit actively engaged in ground combat with the enemy. The unit in question must be a brigade, regiment, or smaller size. For example, personnel possessing an infantry MOS in a rifle squad of a cavalry platoon in a cavalry troop would be eligible for award of the CIB. Battle or CPC alone is not sufficient; the unit must have been in active ground combat with the enemy during the period.

(2) Personnel with other than an infantry or SF MOS are not eligible, regardless of the circumstances. The infantry or SF CMF, AOC or MOS does not necessarily have to be the Soldier's primary specialty, as long as the Soldier has been properly trained in infantry or SF tactics, possesses the appropriate skill code, and is serving in that specialty when engaged in active ground combat as described above. Commanders are not authorized to make any exceptions to this policy.

(3) Awards will not be made to general officers or to members of headquarters companies of units larger in size than brigade.

c. Actively participate in such ground combat. Campaign or battle credit alone is not sufficient for award of the CIB.

3. Army Regulation 600-8-22 also provides, in pertinent part, for award of a bronze service star, based on qualifying service, for each campaign listed in Appendix B of this regulation and states that authorized bronze service stars will be worn on the

appropriate service medal. He is entitled to three bronze service stars to be worn on the Vietnam Service Medal. The applicant served during the following three campaigns:

- Counteroffensive Phase VI, 2 November 1968 – 22 February 1969
- Tet 69/Counteroffensive, 23 February 1969 – 8 June 1969
- Summer-Fall 1969, 9 June 1969 – 31 October 1969

4. U.S. Army Vietnam Regulation 672-1 (Awards and Decorations) governed award of the CIB to Army forces operating in South Vietnam. This regulation stated that criteria for award of the CIB identified the man who trained, lived, and fought as an infantryman and that the CIB was the unique award established to recognize the infantryman and only the infantryman for his service. Further, “the CIB is not an award for being shot at or for undergoing the hazards of day to day combat.” This regulation also stated the CIB was authorized for award to infantry officers, to enlisted personnel, and to warrant officers who had an infantry specialty/military occupational specialty and required that they must have served in active ground combat while assigned or attached to an infantry unit of brigade, regimental or smaller size.

5. Department of the Army Pamphlet 672-3 (Unit Citation and Campaign Participation Credit Register) shows Department of the Army General Orders (DAGO) 8, 1974, announced award of the RVN Gallantry Cross Unit Citation with Palm for service in Vietnam to the following units:

- Headquarters, United States Military Assistance Command and its subordinate units during the period 8 February 1962 to 28 March 1973
- Headquarters, United States Army Vietnam and its subordinate units during the period 20 July 1965 to 28 March 1973

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//