

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 31 January 2025

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240007361

APPLICANT REQUESTS: correction of his DD Form 214 (Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge) for the period ending 21 April 1971, to show award of:

- Two Purple Hearts
- Three Bronze Star Medals

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- Two Purple Heart Certificates, from 18 May 1970 to 1 July 1970
- Three Bronze Star Medal Certificates, from 1 August 1970 to 21 January 1971
- DD Form 214

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 would like his DD Form 214 to be corrected to show award of his two Purple Hearts and three Bronze Star Medals.
3. He provides:
 - a. Purple Heart Certificate, dated 18 May 1970, which shows he was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds received in action on 13 May 1970 in the Republic of Vietnam.
 - b. Purple Heart Certificate, dated 1 July 1970, which shows he was awarded the Purple Heart (First Oak Leaf Cluster) for wounds received in action on 9 June 1970 in the Republic of Vietnam.

- c. Bronze Star Medal Certificate, dated 1 August 1970, which shows he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for heroism in ground combat in the Republic of Vietnam on 9 June 1970.
- d. Bronze Star Medal Certificate, dated 9 November 1970, which shows he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal (First Oak Leaf Cluster) for heroism in ground combat in the Republic of Vietnam on 16 June 1970.
- e. Bronze Star Medal Certificate, dated 21 January 1971, which shows he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious achievement from April 1970 to January 1971 in the Republic of Vietnam.

4. The Board will not consider the applicant's request for correction of his DD Form 214 to show award of two Purple Hearts. The applicant's record contains sufficient evidence for correction of his DD Form 214 to show award of two Purple Hearts without action by the Board.

5. The Board will consider the applicant's request for correction of his DD Form 214 to show award of three Bronze Star Medals.

6. His service record shows:

- a. He was inducted into the Army of the United States on 17 September 1969.
- b. DA Form 20 (Enlisted Qualification Record) shows in:
 - Item 22 (Military Occupational Specialties) – 11E, Armor Crewman
 - Item 31 (Foreign Service) – 6 April 1970 to 20 April 1971, U.S. Army Pacific - Vietnam (USARPAC)
 - Item 38 (Record of Assignments) shows during his service in Vietnam he was assigned to:
 - Troop B, 3d Squadron, 4th Cavalry, 25th Infantry Division - USARPAC from 16 April 1970 to 30 November 1970
 - Headquarters and Headquarters Command, 3d Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division – USARPAC from 1 December 1970 to 10 April 1971
 - Item 40 (Wounds): two fragment wounds, 13 May 1970 and 9 June 1970
 - Item 41 (Awards and Decorations):
 - National Defense Service Medal
 - Vietnam Service Medal
 - Purple Heart

- Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal
- Army Commendation Medal

c. Headquarters, 25th Infantry Division General Orders Number 5270, 18 May 1970, shows he was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds received on 13 May 1970

d. Headquarters, 25th Infantry Division General Orders Number 6667, 13 June 1970 shows he was awarded the Purple Heart (First Oak Leaf Cluster), for wounds received on 9 June 1970.

e. Headquarters 25th Infantry Division General Orders Number 10988, 9 November 1970 shows he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with "V" device (First Oak Leaf Cluster) on 16 June 1970 for service in the Republic of Vietnam.

f. Headquarters, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) General Orders Number 1476, 21 January 1971, shows he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service in the Republic of Vietnam from April 1970 to January 1971.

7. He was honorably released from active duty in the rank/grade of specialist/E-4 on 21 April 1971. He completed 1 year, 7 months, and 5 days of net active service during this period. Item 24 (Decorations, Medals, Badges, Commendations, Citations, and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized) of his DD Form 214 shows he was awarded or authorized the following awards:

- National Defense Service Medal
- Vietnam Service Medal
- Vietnam Campaign Medal
- Army Commendation Medal
- Bronze Star Medal

8. His record indicates he was awarded or authorized additional awards that are not shown on his DD Form 214 and will be listed in the administrative notes.

BOARD DISCUSSION:

1. After reviewing the application, all supporting documents, and the evidence found within the military record, the Board found that relief was 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 of record shows the applicant provided three certificates awarding him the Bronze Star Medal and two awarding him the Purple Heart. The Board noted the administrative correction below for correction of the Purple Heart (First Oak Leaf

Cluster); however, determined the evidence supports the award of the additional three Bronze Star Medals added to his DD Form 214.

2. Additionally, the Board determined the applicant served a period of honorable service from 17 September 1969 to 21 April 1971 and should be awarded the Army Good Conduct Medal (First Award).

BOARD VOTE:

Mbr 1 Mbr 2 Mbr 3

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	GRANT FULL RELIEF
:	:	:	GRANT PARTIAL RELIEF
:	:	:	GRANT FORMAL HEARING
:	:	:	DENY APPLICATION

BOARD DETERMINATION/RECOMMENDATION:

The Board determined the evidence presented is sufficient to warrant relief. As a result, the Board recommends that all Department of the Army records of the individual concerned be corrected by:

- awarding the applicant the Army Good Conduct Medal for the period 17 September 1969 to 21 April 1971
- adding the Army Good Conduct Medal and Bronze Star Medal (Second Oak Leaf Cluster) to his DD Form 214

5/12/2025

X [REDACTED]

CHAIRPERSON
[REDACTED]

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 records shows he is authorized additional awards not listed on his DD Form 214 for the period ending 2 August 1968. As a result, amend his DD Form 214 by:

- a. Delete: Vietnam Service Medal
- b. Add:
 - Vietnam Service Medal with three bronze service stars
 - Purple Heart (First Oak Leaf Cluster)
 - Valorous Unit Award
 - 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 600-8-22 (Military Awards) prescribes Army policy, criteria, and administrative instructions concerning individual and unit military awards.
 - a. The Bronze Star Medal is awarded in time of war for heroism and for meritorious achievement or service, not involving participation in aerial flight, in connection with military operations against an armed enemy, or while engaged military operations involving conflict with an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party. As with all personal decorations, formal recommendations, approval through the chain of command, and announcement in orders are required.
 - b. The Vietnam Service Medal was awarded to all service members of the Armed Forces of the United States for qualifying service in Vietnam after 3 July 1965 through 28 March 1973. Qualifying service included attachment to or assignment for one or more days with an organization participating in or directly supporting military operations. One bronze service star is authorized with the Vietnam Service Medal for each campaign during which a member was assigned or attached to and present for duty with a unit during the period in which it participated in combat. Campaign participation credit was awarded for the following relevant campaigns:
 - Winter – Spring 1970 – 1 November 1969 – 30 April 1970
 - Sanctuary Counteroffensive – 1 May 1970 – 30 June 1970
 - Counteroffensive Phase VII - 1 July 1970 – 30 June 1971
 - c. Department of the Army Pamphlet 672-3 (Unit Citation and Campaign Participation Credit Register) lists the unit awards received by units serving in Vietnam. It shows the 4th Cavalry, 3d Squadron was cited for:
 - a. Valorous Unit Award by order of the Department of the Army General Order Number 43, 1972, for the period 1 May 1970 to 29 June 1970
 - b. Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation by order of Department of the Army General Order 55, 1971, for the period 1 May 1970 to 28 June 1970.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//