

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 19 December 2024

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240007418

APPLICANT REQUESTS: correction of his DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) to show:

- Awards of the NATO Medal and Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal
- Service in Former Republic of Yugoslavia (Bosnia)

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- NATO Medal Certificate, 21 September 1998 to 23 March 1999
- DA Form 31 (Request and Authority for Leave), 19 December 1998
- Veteran Profile – Information Report

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 his unit did not show or document his deployment between September 1998 and March 1999 in a combat zone.
3. The applicant provides sufficient documentary evidence of his deployment and award of the NATO Medal which may be corrected administratively without action by the Board. As a related item, the Board will consider the Army Good Conduct Medal.
4. The applicant enlisted in the Regular Army on 1 October 1997 and held military occupational specialty (MOS) 12B, Combat Engineer. Following completion of MOS training, he was assigned to 20th Engineer Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, TX.

a. He provides a DA Form 31, dated 9 December 1998, that show she requested a pass from his unit, Company A, 20th Engineer Battalion, while deployed in support of Operation Joint Forge, to go to Budapest, Hungary from 9 to 26 December 1998

b. He provides a NATO Certificate confirming his award of the NATO Medal for service with NATO on Operations in relation to the Former Republic of Yugoslavia during the period 21 September 1998 to 23 March 1999 (6 months and 2 days).

c. He also provides a Veteran Profile Information Report, issued in February 2023, that reflects his receipt of combat zone tax exclusion between 1 October 1998 and 31 March 1999.

d. He was honorably released from active duty on 30 September 2000. His DD Form 214 show she completed 3 years of active service, held the grade of specialist/E-4 and he was assigned Reentry Code 1 (fully eligible to reenlist). His DD Form 214 shows in:

- Block 12f (Foreign Service) zero foreign service
- Block 13 (Decorations, Medals, Badges, Citations and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized): Army Lapel Button, Army Service Ribbon, Expert Badge with Grenade Bar, and Marksman Badge with Rifle Bar
- Block 18 (Remarks) no listing of any deployment

6. Following his release from active duty, he served in the Army National Guard from 1 October 2000 to 30 September 2001.

7. He was ultimately honroably discharged from the U.S. Army Reserve on 27 July 2005, at the conclusion of his staturoy service obligations.

8. His service record does not contain any derogatory information, such as lost time or conviction by a court-martial, that would have disqualified him from receiving his award of the Army Good Conduct Medal.

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 applicant's contentions, the military record, and regulatory guidance were carefully considered. Although not specifically requested by the applicant, he served on active duty from 1 October 1997 through 30 September 2000. He completed 3 years of active service, held the grade of specialist/E-4 and he was assigned Reentry Code 1 (fully eligible to reenlist). His service record does not contain any derogatory information, such as lost time or conviction by a court-martial, that would have disqualified him from receiving his

award of the Army Good Conduct Medal. Therefore, the Board determined he meets the criteria for award of the Army Good Conduct Medal (1st Award)

2. Prior to closing the case, the Board did note the analyst of record administrative notes below, and recommended the correction is completed to more accurately depict the military service of the applicant.

BOARD VOTE:

Mbr 1 Mbr 2 Mbr 3

■	■	■	GRANT FULL RELIEF
:	:	:	GRANT PARTIAL RELIEF
:	:	:	GRANT FORMAL HEARING
:	:	:	DENY APPLICATION

BOARD DETERMINATION/RECOMMENDATION:

In addition to the correction addressed in Administrative Note(s) below, the Board determined the evidence presented is sufficient to warrant a recommendation for 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 service during the period 1 October 1997 through 30 September 2000
- Adding awards of the Army Good Conduct (1st Award) to his DD Form 214

12/20/2024

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):

Correct the applicant's DD Form 214 as follows:

- Block 12f, add 0000-06-02
- Block 13, add NATO Medal and Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal
- Block 18, add Service in Bosnia-Herzegovina from 21 September 1998 to 23 March 1999

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 635-5 (Separation Documents) establishes the standardized policy for preparing and distributing the DD Form 214. The purpose of the separation document is to provide the individual with documentary evidence of his or her military service. Chapter 2 contains guidance on the preparation of the DD Form 214. It states.

- Block 12f, enter the total amount of foreign service completed during the period covered by the DD Form 214
- Block 13, enter all awards and decorations
- Block 18, For an active duty Soldier deployed with his or her unit during their continuous period of active service, the statement "Service in (Country Deployed) FROM (inclusive dates for example, YYYYMMDD-YYYYMMDD)"

3. Army Regulation 600-8-22 (Military Awards) provides for award of the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for qualifying service after 1 July 1958 in U.S. military operations, U.S. operations in direct support of the United Nations, and U.S. operations of assistance for friendly foreign nations. Qualifying service for this award includes participation in the Former Republic of Yugoslavia for Operations Joint Forge, 21 June 1998 to 2 December 2004 (Only for participants deployed in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia, aboard naval vessels operating in the Adriatic Sea, and their respective airspace).

4. Army Regulation 600-8-22 states the Army Good Conduct Medal is awarded to individuals who distinguish themselves by their conduct, efficiency, and fidelity. This period is 3 years except in those cases when the period for the first award ends with the

termination of a period of active Federal military service. Although there is no automatic entitlement to the Army Good Conduct Medal, disqualification must be justified.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//