

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 14 February 2025

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240007891

APPLICANT REQUESTS: correction of his DD Form 214 (Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge) for the period ending 22 May 1969 to show award of the:

- Bronze Star Medal
- Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device
- the Army Commendation Medal

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record under the Provisions of Title 10, U.S. Code, Section 1552)
- Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device Citation, 27 August 1968
- DA Form 1526 (Information for Hometown News Release), undated
- Headquarters, 101st Airborne Division General Orders Number 2580, 21 March 1969 with certificate and citation
- Photograph
- Headquarters, 2d Battalion (Airmobile), 506th Airborne Infantry Letter, undated
- DD Form 214 for the period ending 22 May 1969
- United States Of America Parcel Post Customs Declaration, 13 September 1969
- DA Form 1577 (Authorization for Issuance of Awards), 13 September 1988

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 would like a correction to add his awards to his DD Form 214. He notes he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal on 21 March 1969 while serving in Vietnam. He was also awarded the Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device on 27 August 1968 also while in Vietnam. He notes he was recommended for an Army Commendation Medal for achievement for his inspection on an ammunition dump,

which he also received a letter noting the accomplishment to his parents. He does not know if it was annotated in his records.

3. He was inducted into the Army of the United States on 19 October 1967. He completed his initial entry training and was awarded military occupational specialty (MOS) 11B (Light Weapons Infantryman).
4. Headquarters, U.S. Army Training Center, Infantry and Fort Polk Special Orders Number 320, on 13 December 1967 awarded him the Sharpshooter Marksmanship Qualification Badge for the M-14 rifle on 29 November 1967.
5. Headquarters, U.S. Army Training Center, Infantry and Fort Polk Special Orders Number 031, on 5 February 1968 awarded him the Sharpshooter Marksmanship Qualification Badge for the M-16 rifle on 26 January 1968.
6. Headquarters, U.S. Army Training Center, Infantry and Fort Polk Special Orders Number 039, on 14 February 1968 awarded him the Sharpshooter Marksmanship Qualification Badge for the M-60 machinegun on 31 January 1968.
7. Headquarters, The Student Brigade, U.S. Army Infantry School, Fort Benning, GA, Special Orders Number 74, on 27 March 1968 awarded him the Parachutist Badge with the MOS Special Qualification Identifier of "P" effective 29 March 1968.
8. He provides a citation that shows he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device for his heroic actions during combat operations while assigned to Company A, 2d Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment in Hau Nghia Province, Republic of Vietnam on 27 August 1968.
9. A review of his available records contains a proposed citation that shows he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device for his heroic actions during combat operations while assigned to Company A, 2d Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment in Hau Nghia Province, Republic of Vietnam on 27 August 1968. The citation shows the awarded was presented by Major General [REDACTED] Commanding General, 25th Infantry Division on 3 September 1968.
10. A review of his available records do not contain, nor does he provide, orders showing he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device.
11. Headquarters, 101st Airborne Division General Orders Number 595, on 18 January 1969 awarded him the Army Commendation Medal for meritorious achievement for the period 1 July 1968 to 30 November 1968.

12. A review of his available records do not contain additional orders showing he was awarded or recommended for another Army Commendation Medal.

13. Headquarters, 101st Airborne Division General Orders 2580, dated 21 March 1969 awarded him the Bronze Star Medal while assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2d Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division. These orders are accompanied with a certificate and citation that shows he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious achievement for the period 1 July 1968 through 28 February 1969 in connection with ground operations in the Republic of Vietnam.

14. His military records do not contain orders awarding him the Army Good Conduct Medal (1st Award). His records are also void of any derogatory or adverse information or a disqualification statement from his commander that would have precluded award of the Army Good Conduct Medal (1st Award).

15. He was honorably released from active duty and transferred to the U.S. Army Reserve Control Group (Annual Training) on 22 May 1969. He completed 1 year, 7 months, and 4 days of total active service. His DD Form 214 shows in:

- a. item 22c (Foreign and/or Sea Service) – 1 year and 21 days and
- b. item 24 (Decorations, Medals, Badges, Commendations, Citations, and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized) –
  - Air Medal
  - Army Commendation Medal
  - National Defense Service Medal
  - Vietnam Service Medal
  - Vietnam Campaign Medal (known as the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960)
  - Combat Infantryman Badge

16. U.S. Army Reserve Components Personnel and Administration Center Letter, Orders Number 09-1243214, dated 24 October 1973, honorably discharged him from the U.S. Control Group (Standby) by reason of expiration of term of service effective 1 October 1973.

17. He provides the following additional documents in support:

- a. DA Form 1526 (Information for Hometown News Release), undated that shows the event of him receiving a Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device;
- b. a photograph (presumably of him receiving a Bronze Star Medal);

c. Headquarters, 2d Battalion (Airmobile), 506th Airborne Infantry Letter, undated, informing his parents he was assigned responsibilities of the Battalion Ammunition Supply Point after six months on the (front) line. It also noted because of his efforts and duty, he was recommended for the Army Commendation Medal;

d. United States of America Parcel Post Customs Declaration, on 13 September 1969 showing a Bronze Star Medal was listed as an item on the customs declaration; and;

e. DA Form 1577, 13 September 1988 from the Department of the Army Personnel Center showing his authorized awards/decorations.

#### 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 Board made the following determinations:

a. Bronze Star Medal. Grant. The Board determined there was sufficient evidence to support the applicant was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, including his Bronze Star Medal Certificate for ground operations against hostile forces.

b. Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device. Grant. The Board determined there was sufficient evidence to support the applicant was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device, specifically, the proposed citation for the award pertaining to the applicant while serving as a rifleman during combat operations in the Republic of Vietnam.

c. Army Commendation Medal. The Board determined the Army Commendation Medal is appropriately annotated on the applicant's DD Form 214, for the period ending 22 May 1969.

2. Prior to closing the discussion, the Board reviewed and concurred with the administrative notes below. Additionally, the Board determined the applicant served a period of eligibility that warrants award of the Army Good Conduct Medal (First Award) for his service from 19 October 1967 to 22 May 1969.



ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE(S): The applicant is authorized administrative correction of his DD Form 214 for the period ending 22 May 1969 without Board action to show in:

- a. item 23a (Specialty Number & Title) – "11B4P Light Weapons Infantryman" instead of "11B40 Light Weapons Infantryman" and
- b. item 24 the following awards –
  - four bronze service stars with his already awarded Vietnam Service Medal
  - Presidential Unit Citation
  - Meritorious Unit Commendation
  - Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation
  - Republic of Vietnam Civil Actions Honor Medal First Class Citation
  - Parachutist Badge
  - Sharpshooter Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-14)
  - Sharpshooter Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-16)
  - Sharpshooter Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Machinegun Bar (M-60)

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 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 considers individual applications that are properly brought before it. 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 the evidence.

3. 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 in military operations involving conflict with an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party. A bronze letter "V" (for valor) is worn on the suspension and service ribbon of the medal when awarded for valor/heroism. As with all personal decorations, formal recommendations, approval through the chain of command, and announcement in orders are required.

b. A bronze service star is authorized with the Vietnam Service Medal for each Vietnam campaign a member is credited with participating in. A silver service star is worn instead of five bronze service stars. Appendix B shows that during his service in Vietnam, participation credit was awarded for the following four campaigns:

- Vietnam Counteroffensive, Phase IV, (2 April 1968 – 30 June 1968)
- Vietnam Counteroffensive, Phase V, (1 July 1968 – 1 November 1968)
- Vietnam Counteroffensive, Phase VI, (2 November 1968 – 22 February 1969)
- TET 69 Counteroffensive, (23 February 1969 – 8 June 1969)

4. Army Regulation 672-5-1 (Awards), in effect at the time, stated the Army Good Conduct Medal was awarded for each 3 years of continuous enlisted active Federal military service completed on or after 27 August 1940 and, for the first award only, upon termination of service on or after 27 June 1950 of less than 3 years but more than 1 year. The enlisted person must have had all "Excellent" conduct and efficiency

ratings. Ratings of "Unknown" for portions of the period under consideration were not disqualifying. There must have been no convictions by court-martial.

5. Department of the Army Pamphlet 672-3 (Unit Citation and Campaign Participation Credit Register) lists the awards received by units serving in Vietnam. This pamphlet shows the units he was assigned to in the Republic of Vietnam, were cited for award of the:

- Presidential Unit Citation for the period 13 June 1968 through 23 September 1968 in Department of the Army General Order (DAGO) Number 38, 1971
- Meritorious Unit Commendation for the period 14 March 1968 through 3 October 1968 in DAGO Number 22, 1976
- Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation for the period 19 July 1968 through 14 May 1969 in DAGO Number 43, 1970
- Republic of Vietnam Civil Actions Honor Medal First Class Unit Citation for the period 3 October 1968 through 2 May 1970 in DAGO Number 48, 1971

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//