

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 20 February 2025

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240007937

APPLICANT REQUESTS: award of the Army Good Conduct Medal and correction of his DD Form 214 (Report of Separation from Active Duty) to show it.

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record), 9 April 2024
- memorandum, B Troop, 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry, 11 April 1977, subject: Good Conduct Medal Recommendation
- DD Form 214, 30 May 1977

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 last commander approved him for the Army Good Conduct Medal before he took terminal leave and prior to his discharge. His company was deployed to the United Kingdom for 30 days and he left his company before it returned to the U.S. He did not receive his award because he was on terminal leave.
3. A review of the applicant's service records show:
 - a. On 31 May 1974, he enlisted in the Regular Army for 3 years.
 - b. He was assigned to B Troop, 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry and remained with that unit during his entire period of service.
 - c. He was promoted to:
 - private 2/E-2 on 31 September 1974
 - private first class/E-3 on 1 January 1975
 - specialist 4/E-4 on 1 September 1975

- d. His records show no evidence of reductions.
 - e. His records show no evidence of nonjudicial punishment or court-martials.
 - f. On 11 April 1977, the Commander, B Troop, 1st Squadron, recommended approval of award of the Army Good Conduct Medal as he was eligible for the award.
 - g. On 15 April 1977, the Commander, B Troop, 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry recommended approval of award of the Army Good Conduct Medal.
 - h. On an unspecified date, the commander, B Troop, 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry requested orders be issued to him for the Army Good Conduct Medal for exemplary behavior, efficiency, and fidelity during the period 31 May 1975 to 30 May 1977.
 - i. His DA Form 2-1 (Personnel Qualification Record) and DA Form 20 (Enlisted Qualification Record) do not list the Army Good Conduct Medal (First Award).
 - j. On 30 May 1977, he was honorably released from active duty and transferred to control of the U.S. Army Reserve Control Group (Reinforcement). He completed 3 years of active duty during this period. His DD Form 214 does not show any time lost, and it does not list the Army Good Conduct Medal.
 - k. His records are void of orders awarding him the Army Good Conduct Medal (First Award).
3. By regulation (Army Regulation 600-8-22 (Military Awards)), the Army Good Conduct Medal is awarded to on a selective basis to each Soldier who distinguishes himself or herself from among his or her fellow Soldiers by exemplary conduct, efficiency, and fidelity throughout a specified period of continuous enlisted active Federal military service. There is no right or entitlement to the medal until the immediate commander has approved the award and the award has been announced in permanent orders.

BOARD DISCUSSION:

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. Upon review of the applicant's petition and available military records, the Board determined there was sufficient evidence, including his service from 31 May 1974 to 30 May 1977, a period of 3 years. Based on this, the Board granted relief to correct the applicant's record to reflect award of the Army Good Conduct Medal (First Award).

BOARD VOTE:

<u>Mbr 1</u>	<u>Mbr 2</u>	<u>Mbr 3</u>	
:XX	:XX	:XX	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 amending the applicant's DD Form 214, for the period ending 30 May 1977 by:

- awarding him the Army Good Conduct Medal (First Award) for the qualifying period 31 May 1974 to 30 May 1977
- adding the Army Good Conduct Medal (First Award) to his DD Form 214



X //SIGNED//

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.

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 Department of the Army policy, criteria, and administrative instructions concerning individual and unit military awards. The Army Good Conduct Medal is awarded on a selective basis to each Soldier who distinguishes himself or herself from among his or her fellow Soldiers by exemplary conduct, efficiency, and fidelity throughout a specified period of continuous enlisted active Federal military service. There is no right or entitlement to the medal until the immediate commander has approved the award and the award has been announced in permanent orders.

a. The periods of service of qualifying service are: (1) each 3 years completed on or after 27 August 1940; (2) for the first award only, 1 year served entirely during the period 7 December 1941 to 2 March 1946; (3) 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; (4) for the first award only, upon termination of service on or after 27 June 1950 of less than 1 year when final separation was by reason of physical disability incurred in line of duty; or (5) for the first award only, for those individuals who died before completing 1 year of active Federal military service or if the death occurred in the line of duty.

b. Throughout a qualifying period of service, the enlisted Soldier's character must have been above reproach and must meet all of the following criteria for award of the Army Good Conduct Medal as indicated in the Soldier's record: willingly complied with the demands of the military environment, been loyal and obedient to his or her superiors, faithfully supported the goals of his or her organization and the Army, and conducted himself or herself in an exemplary manner as to distinguish him or her from fellow Soldiers.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//