

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 17 March 2025

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240007960

APPLICANT REQUESTS: correction of his DD Form 214 (Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge) by adding the –

- Bronze Star Medal
- Air Medal

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- Air Medal certificate dated 15 March 1970, which shows he was awarded the Air Medal for the period of 21 July 1969 to 11 January 1970; the certificate is void of an order number
- DD Form 214 ending on 14 May 1970, which shows no entries for the Air Medal or Bronze Star Medal
- Bronze Star Medal certificate dated 2 May 1970, which shows he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal; the certificate is void of an order number

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 is requesting an update to his DD Form 214 to show a Bronze Star Medal and the Air Medal. He was awarded the Bronze Star on 2 May 1970, and he was awarded the Air Medal on the 15 March 1970.
3. This Record of Proceedings contains administrative corrections adding multiple badges and citations for the applicant's service in Vietnam. The Board will consider awarding the Bronze Star Medal and the Air Medal.
4. A review of the applicant's military service records show:

- He was inducted into the Army of the United States on 8 October 1968
- DA Form 20 (Enlisted Qualification Record) shows in:
 - Item 22 (Military Occupational Specialties) 11B20 (Light weapons Infantryman)
 - item 31 (Foreign Service) – he served in Vietnam from 17 March 1969 to 11 May 1970
 - item 38 (Record of Assignments) – while serving in Vietnam he was assigned to Company B, and Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 3d Infantry, 199th Infantry Brigade; and he received excellent conduct and efficiency ratings
 - item 41 (Awards and Decorations) –
 - National Defense Service Medal
 - Vietnam Service Medal
 - Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with 1960 Device
 - Combat Infantryman Badge
 - Army Commendation Medal (1st oak leaf cluster)
 - Expert Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-14)
- Special Orders Number 35 dated 4 February 1969, awarded him the Marksman Qualification Badge with Machine Gun Bar
- Special Orders Number 41 dated 10 February 1969, awarded him the Expert Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-16)
- On 14 May 1970, he was released from active duty and transferred to the U.S. Army Reserve (USAR). DD Form 214 shows he completed 1 year, 7 months, and 7 days of net active service. Item 24 (Decorations, Medals, Badges, Commendations, Citations, and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized) shows no entries for the Bronze Star Medal, nor Air Medal
- Letter Orders Number 09-1293198 dated 25 September 1974, discharged the applicant from the Standby Reserve, effective 1 October 1974

5. The applicant's record did not contain orders awarding him the Bronze Star Medal, Air Medal, and Army Good Conduct Medal. It is also void of any disciplinary action which would preclude him from being awarded the Army Good Conduct Medal.

BOARD DISCUSSION:

1. After reviewing the application and all supporting documents, the Board determined relief was warranted. The applicant's contentions, the military record, and regulatory guidance were carefully considered. Based upon the certificates in the record and the other available documentation corroborating the authenticity of the documents, the Board concluded there was sufficient evidence to add the requested awards to the applicant's DD Form 214.

2. Prior to closing the case, based upon the available documents, the Board concluded there was sufficient evidence to award and add the Army Good Conduct Medal to the applicant's military record.

BOARD VOTE:

Mbr 1 Mbr 2 Mbr 3

:XXX	:XXX	:XXX	GRANT FULL RELIEF
:	:	:	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 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:

- adding the Air Medal and the Bronze Star Medal
- awarding and adding the Army Good Conduct Medal

2. Prior to closing the case, the Board noted the administrative notes below from the analyst of record and recommended those changes also be completed to more accurately reflect the military service of the applicant.

//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):

1. Reference the enclosed request for correction of military records from the subject individual to correct his DD Form 214 for the period ending 14 May 1970, by adding to item 24 –

- 1960 Device to Vietnam Campaign Medal
- Four (4) bronze service stars to Vietnam Service Medal
- Expert Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-14)
- Expert Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-16)
- Marksman Qualification Badge with Machine Gun Bar
- Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation
- Republic of Vietnam Civil Actions Honor Medal First Class Unit Citation, with Oak Leaf Device

2. A review of the records listed below (enclosed) is sufficient to substantiate correction of the DD Form 214 without action by the Board.

- DA Form 20 (Enlisted Qualification Record)

- DD Form 214 ending on 14 May 1970
- Army Regulation (AR) 600-8-22 (Military Awards)
- AR 635-5 (Personnel Separation - Separation Documents)
- DA PAM 672-3 (Unit Citation and Campaign Participation Credit Register)
- Special Orders Number 35 dated 4 February 1969
- Special Orders Number 41 dated 10 February 1969
- Department of the Army General Orders Number 51, 1971

3. Please correct the applicant's DD Form 214 by adding the awards shown in paragraph 1. Provide the applicant with a copy of the corrections, and as applicable the medals and citations. Please ensure that the corrections are recorded in the applicant's official military personnel record.

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. AR 635-5 (Personal Separations – Separation Documents) prescribes the separation documents that will be furnished each individual who is separated from the Army and establishes standardized procedures for the preparation and distribution of these documents. In pertinent part, the instructions state for item 24 to enter from DA Form 20 (Enlisted Qualification Record) all decorations, service medals, campaign credits, and badges awarded or authorized.
3. AR 672-5-1 (Decorations, Awards, and Honors Military Awards), in effect at the time, promulgates Department of the Army policy, criteria, and administrative instructions concerning individual military awards. In pertinent part, it states (a) Awards made by the President, the Secretary of Defense, and the Secretary of the Army will be announced in Department of the Army General Orders or Letter Orders. (b) Awards of decorations and the Good Conduct Medal made by heads of Headquarters, Department of the Army Staff agencies may be announced in Department of the Army Letter Orders or General Orders. (c) Awards of decorations and the Good Conduct Medal made pursuant to delegated authority will be announced in general orders by the commanders authorized to make the awards.
4. AR 672-5-1 (Awards), in effect at the time, states the Army Good Conduct Medal was awarded in recognition of exemplary behavior, efficiency, and fidelity during enlisted service in active Federal Military service. The Army Good Conduct Medal would be awarded for first award only, upon termination of service on or after 27 June 1950, of less than three years but more than 1 year. To qualify for the award, the enlisted person must have all conduct and efficiency ratings as excellent and have no conviction by court-martial during the period.
5. AR 600-8-22 (Military Awards) implements a part of the Army Awards Program. In pertinent part:
 - a. Paragraph 1-27 (Announcement of awards) states (1) The award of all decorations, except for the Medal of Honor, will be announced in Permanent Orders by the appropriate awards approval authority before recording information in the Soldier's Army Military Human Resources Record (AMHRR). Additionally, awards made by the President, the Secretary of Defense, and the Secretary of the Army will be announced in Department of the Army General Orders. (2) Service medals and service ribbons are

administratively awarded to individuals who meet the qualifying criteria. Orders are not required except for the Army Good Conduct Medal which will be published in a Permanent Order (see para 4-1) and included in the Soldier's AMHRR.

b. Paragraph 3-16 (Bronze Star Medal) states in pertinent part, Executive Order number 11046 authorizes the Secretary of the Army to award the Bronze Star Medal (BSM) to any person who, while serving in any capacity with the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, or Air Force of the United States, or as a member of the armed forces of a friendly foreign nation, after 6 December 1941, distinguished themselves by heroic or meritorious achievement or service, not involving participation in aerial flight — (1) While engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States. (2) While engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force. (3) While serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party.

d. Chapter 4, Section I (Army Good Conduct Medal) provides that, the Army Good Conduct Medal (AGCM) is awarded for exemplary behavior, efficiency, and fidelity in active Federal military service. It 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, as outlined in this chapter. 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.

e. Paragraph 4-2, states, in pertinent part, the Army Good Conduct Medal may be awarded retroactively, to eligible Army of the United States enlisted personnel.

f. Paragraph 4-4 (Basis for Army Good Conduct Medal approval) states, the immediate unit commander's decision to award the AGCM will be based on their personal knowledge of, and the individual's official records for, periods of service under previous commanders during the period for which the award is to be made.

g. Paragraph 4-5 (Qualifying periods of service) states, in pertinent part, any one of the following periods of continuous enlisted active Federal military service qualifies for award of the Army Good Conduct Medal. (1) For first award only, upon termination of service on or after 27 June 1950, of less than 3 years but more than 1 year. (2) Subsequent awards must be for a completion of 3 years of continuous enlisted active Federal military service.

6. U.S. Army Vietnam (USARV) Regulation 672-1 (Decorations and Awards) provided guidelines for award of the Air Medal. It stated passenger personnel who did not participate in an air assault were not eligible for the award based upon sustained operations. It defined terms and provided guidelines for the award based upon the

number and types of missions or hours. Twenty-five Category I missions (air assault and equally dangerous missions) and accrual of a minimum of 25 hours of flight time while engaged in Category I missions was the standard established for which sustained operations were deemed worthy of recognition by an award of the Air Medal. However, the regulation was clear that these guidelines were considered only a departure point.

a. Combat missions were divided into three categories. A category I mission was defined as a mission performed in an assault role in which a hostile force was engaged and was characterized by delivery of ordnance against the hostile force or delivery of friendly troops or supplies into the immediate combat operations area. A category II mission was characterized by support rendered a friendly force immediately before, during, or immediately following a combat operation. A category III mission was characterized by support of friendly forces not connected with an immediate combat operation but which must have been accomplished at altitudes which made the aircraft at times vulnerable to small arms fire or under hazardous weather or terrain conditions.

b. To be recommended for award of the Air Medal, an individual must have completed a minimum of 25 category I missions, 50 category II missions, or 100 category III missions. Since various types of missions would have been completed in accumulating flight time toward award of an Air Medal for sustained operations, different computations would have had to be made to combine category I, II, and III flight times and adjust it to a common denominator.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//