

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 12 February 2025

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240008275

APPLICANT REQUESTS: correction of his DD Form 214 (Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge) to reflect that he was awarded the Army Commendation Medal

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- Army Commendation Medal Citation
- Army Commendation Medal Certificate

FACTS:

1. The applicant did not file within the 3-year time frame provided in Title 10, United States Code (USC), section 1552 (b) (Correction of Military Records: Claims Incident Thereto). 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, in effect, he wants the Army Commendation Medal added to his DD Form 214 and records. He only discovered this omission when he had to provide his DD Form 214 to support a disability claim.
3. The applicant provides the following documents:
 - a. The citation states, the applicant distinguished himself by meritorious service as Clerk Typist while assigned to the Armed Forces Examining and Entrance Station, Los Angeles, CA from June 1968 to July 1969. His service was characterized by initiative, resourcefulness, and conspicuous ability in the performance of all assigned duties. Constantly striving to ensure maximum efficiency in his area of responsibility, he carefully monitored the utilization of automatic typing equipment and expertly programmed administrative functions for pre-induction and induction processing. The citation goes on to laud the applicant's commendable achievements, loyalty and devotion to duty.

b. The Army Commendation Medal Certificate is dated 14 July 1969 and signed by Brigadier General [REDACTED] Commanding. He received this award for meritorious service while assigned to the U.S. Army Recruiting Command during the period June 1968 to July 1969.

3. The applicant is entitled to additional awards not currently listed on his DD Form 214. These awards will be administratively corrected without the need for Board action in the "ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES" section of this document.

4. A review of the applicant's service records show:

a. On 29 July 1966, he enlisted in the Regular Army.

b. His DA Form 20 (Enlisted Qualification Record) shows in:

- Item 31 (Foreign Service): 25 May 1967 through 10 May 1968 – U.S. Army Pacific – Vietnam
- Item 38 (Record of Assignments): he was assigned to:
 - Headquarters, Headquarters Command, 14th Transportation Battalion from 19 April 1967 to 19 May 1968
 - [illegible] California as a clerk typist in military occupational specialty (MOS) 71B from 28 June 1968 to 27 July 1969
- Item 39 (Campaigns): he participated in four Vietnam campaigns
- Item 41 (Awards): National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal with 1960 Device, Two Overseas Service Bars and the Army Good Conduct Medal

c. His DD Form 214 shows he was honorably released from active duty and transferred to the U.S. Army Reserve on 28 July 1969. He completed 3 years of net service this period with 11 months and 13 days of foreign service in the Republic of Vietnam. This document also shows in:

- item 24 (Decorations, Medals, Badges, Commendations, Citations, and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized) lists the following awards: National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, and Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960), Army Good Conduct Medal, and the Marksman Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar
- item 30 (Remarks): does not show his period of service in Vietnam

d. The applicant's service records are void of any orders awarding him the Army Commendation Medal. In addition, a review of the Awards and Decorations Computer-

Assisted Retrieval System, an index of general orders issued during the Vietnam era between 1965 and 1973 maintained by the U.S. Army Human Resources Command, failed to reveal any orders for the Army Commendation Medal pertaining to the applicant.

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 and standard review based on law, policy and regulation. Upon review of the applicant's petition and available military records, the Board acknowledged the citation and certificate dated 14 July 1969, signed by a brigadier general, which document the applicant's meritorious service as a clerk typist while assigned to the Armed Forces Examining and Entrance Station, Los Angeles, California, from June 1968 to July 1969. The citation highlights the applicant's initiative, resourcefulness, and exemplary performance in support of pre-induction and induction processing.

2. The Board noted, although the applicant's official military personnel records are void of orders awarding the Army Commendation Medal, and a search of the Awards and Decorations Computer-Assisted Retrieval System did not yield corroborating orders, the Board found the submitted documentation to be authentic, and sufficiently credible to support correction of the record. Based on the totality of evidence including the signed certificate and citation, verified assignment history, and the applicant's honorable service, the Board agreed that the applicant's DD Form 214 should be corrected to reflect award of the Army Commendation Medal. As such, the Board granted relief.

3. 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:

<u>Mbr 1</u>	<u>Mbr 2</u>	<u>Mbr 3</u>	
XXX	XXX	XXX	GRANT FULL RELIEF
:	:	:	GRANT PARTIAL RELIEF
:	:	:	GRANT FORMAL HEARING
:	:	:	DENY APPLICATION

BOARD DETERMINATION/RECOMMENDATION:

In addition to the administrative notes annotated by the Analyst of Record (below the signature), 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 his DD Form 214 for the period ending 28 July 1969 to show award of the Army Commendation Medal.

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.

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE(S):

The applicant is authorized additional awards not currently listed on his DD Form 214. Based on the foregoing, amend his DD Form 214 to add to:

- a. item 24 (Awards): the following awards:
 - Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation
 - Vietnam Service Medal with four bronze service stars
- b. Item 30 (Remarks): "Service in Vietnam from 19 April 1967 to 19 May 1968".

REFERENCES:

1. Title 10, USC, 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.

7. 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 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.

2. Army Regulation 672-5-1 (Awards and Decorations), in effect at the time, prescribed policies and procedures for the individual and unit military awards. The Army Commendation Medal was awarded for heroism, or meritorious achievement or service.

(1) Awards could be granted for acts of heroism that were of a lesser degree than what was required for the award of the Bronze Star Medal. For meritorious achievement or service, the acts were to be less than the criteria for the Legion of Merit.

(2) As with all personal decorations, formal recommendations, approval through the chain of command, and announcement in orders was required prior to the award of the Bronze Star Medal.

2. Army Regulation 600-8-22 (Military Awards) prescribes Army policy, criteria, and administrative instructions concerning individual and unit military awards. The regulatory guidance for the RVN Service Medal, states that a bronze service star is authorized with this award for each Vietnam campaign. Appendix B shows that during his service in Vietnam, participation credit was awarded for the following campaign:

- Vietnam Counter-Offensive Phase II (1 July 1966 – 31 May 1967)
- Vietnam Counter-Offensive Phase III (1 June 1967 – 29 January 1968)
- Vietnam TET Counter-Offensive (30 January 1968 – 1 April 1968)
- Vietnam Counter-Offensive Phase IV (2 April 1968 – 30 June 1968)

3. Department of the Army General Order Number 8, dated 1974, announced award of the RVN Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation to Headquarters, U.S. Military Assistance Command, and its subordinate units during the period 8 February 1962 to 28 March 1973, and to Headquarters, U.S. Army Vietnam, and its subordinate units, during the period 20 July 1965 to 28 March 1973.

4. Army Regulation 635-5 (Separation Documents), in effect at the time, prescribed the separation documents prepared for Soldiers upon retirement, discharge, or release from active duty service or control of the Active Army. It established standardized policy for preparing and distributing the DD Form 214. The instructions stated to list awards and decorations for all periods of service.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//