

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 24 March 2025

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240008504

APPLICANT REQUESTS: award of the Air Medal.

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record), 29 April 2024
- self-authored statement
- DD Form 214 (Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge), 22 June 1971

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 the Air Medal is missing from his DD Form 214. He was an infantry platoon leader/Company Commander during 1970-1971. During this time, he was required to fly numerous combat "LZ" insertions and extractions as well as reconnaissance/planning missions over an 11-month period. He additionally supervised a leaflet drop, a vehicle recovery, and three or more resupply missions from fixed wing aircraft upon arrival in-country.

a. The majority of the flights were combat insertion/extractions, the flights took place from firebases west of Duc Pho, Chu Lai, and Da Nang, South Vietnam. Some of the resupply and reconnaissance missions took place from firebases west of Duc Pho, east of Khe Sanh, and Khe Sanh itself when their unit was attached to the 101st Airborne Division. The missions were flown in Bell UH-1 Iroquois, Light Observation Helicopters, and Chinooks and one of the flights came down via autorotation.

b. Army Regulation 600-8-22 (Military Awards) provides the criteria for the award of the Air Medal while referencing combat duties. Section 3-17 requires regular and frequent flying in other than a passenger status and a discernible contribution to the operational land combat mission.

3. A review of the applicant's service record reflects the following:

a. He enlisted in the Regular Army on 2 October 1968, for a 2-year period. He was honorably discharged on 21 August 1969. His DD Form 214 (Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge) shows he served 10 months and 20 days of net active service and was awarded the National Defense Service Medal and the Marksman Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle (M-16).

b. His DA Form 71 (Oath of Office – Military Personnel) shows he accepted a Reserve commission and executed his oath of office on 22 August 1969.

c. DA Form 66 (Officer Qualification Record) Item 17 (Foreign Service) shows service in Vietnam from 2 August 1970 to 18 June 1971.

d. On 23 June 1971, he was honorably released from active duty and transferred to the United States Army Reserve Control Group. His DD Form 214 shows he completed 1 year, 10 months, and 2 days of net active service. He was awarded or authorized the following decorations, medals, badges, commendations, citations, and campaign ribbons:

- National Defense Service Medal
- Vietnam Campaign Medal
- Vietnam Service Medal
- Army Commendation Medal
- Bronze Star Medal
- Combat Infantryman Badge

BOARD DISCUSSION:

After reviewing the application and all supporting documents, the Board determined that relief was/was not warranted. The applicant's contentions, the military record, and regulatory guidance were carefully considered. Based upon the available documentation failing to provide any flight records showing the applicant met the qualifications outlined for the requested award, the Board concluded there was insufficient evidence of an error or injustice warranting adding the Air Medal to the applicant's military record.

BOARD VOTE:

Mbr 1 Mbr 2 Mbr 3

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

BOARD DETERMINATION/RECOMMENDATION:

The evidence presented does not demonstrate the existence of a probable error or injustice. Therefore, the Board determined the overall merits of this case are insufficient as a basis for correction of the records of the individual concerned.

//SIGNED//

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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 672-1 (Decorations and Awards) in effect at the time provided, in pertinent part, guidelines for award of the Air Medal. It established that 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.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//