

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 24 March 2025

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240008863

APPLICANT REQUESTS: correction of his DD Form 214 (Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge) for the period ending 20 August 1969 to show in item 24 (Decorations, Medals, Badges, Commendation, Citations and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized) Bronze Star Medal.

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- Bronze Star Medal Certificate, 5 June 1969; certificate does not present an order number
- Bronze Star Medal Citation provides the narrative for the applicant's unswerving efforts and professional ability in a combat environment during January 1969 to June 1969
- DD Form 214, ending 20 August 1969

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 in effect, correction to his DD Form 214 by including the Bronze Star Medal.
3. A review of the applicant's service records show the following on:
 - On 3 January 1968 – the applicant was inducted into the Army of the United States
 - DA Form 20 (Enlisted Qualification Record) shows in:
 - item 31 (Foreign Service) Republic of Vietnam 11 September 1968 – 10 September 1969

- item 38 (Record of Assignments) assigned to 3d Brigade, 9th Infantry Division, Republic of Vietnam
- item 41 (Awards and Decorations):
 - National Defense Service Medal
 - Air Medal
 - Vietnam Service Medal
 - Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960)
 - Expert Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-14)
- On 15 July 1969, General Orders Number 10339 awarded him the Army Commendation Medal
- DD Form 214 shows an honorable characterization of service, his active duty service period 3 January 1968 – 20 August 1969 and he completed 1 year, 7 months, and 18 days of active service; it is void of an entry for the Bronze Star Medal
- the available service record is void of any further documentation showing the applicant was awarded the Bronze Star Medal
- a review of the Awards and Decorations Computer Assisted Retrieval System 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:

After reviewing the application, all supporting documents, and the evidence found within the military record, the Board found that relief was/was not warranted. The applicant's contentions, the military record, and regulatory guidance were carefully considered. Based upon the provided BSM certificate being unreadable as to who it was awarded to and the applicant's military record showing he was awarded an ARCOM for the same period of military service, the Board concluded there was insufficient evidence of an error or injustice warranting a change 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:

1. 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.
2. Prior to closing the case, the Board noted the administrative notes below from the analyst of record and recommended that change 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. A review of the applicant's service record shows his DD Form 214 omitted administrative entries. As a result, amend the DD Form 214 by adding the following in item 24 the Army Commendation Medal.
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
 - General Orders Number 10339, dated 15 July 1969
 - DD Form 214
3. Please amend the applicant's DD Form 214 by adding the award shown in paragraph 1 above. Provide the applicant a copy of the correction, and as applicable the medal. Please ensure that the corrections are is 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. Army Regulation 600-8-22 (Military Awards) states, 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. As with all personal decorations, formal recommendations, approval through the chain of command, and announcement in orders are required.

3. U.S. Army Vietnam Regulation 672-1 (Decorations and Awards) governed the military awards program in Vietnam during the Vietnam War. This regulation stated the Bronze Star Medal may have been awarded for heroism or for meritorious achievement or service which did not involve aerial flight, but which was performed in connection with military operations against an armed enemy including combat, support, and supply operations. The approval authority for award of the Bronze Star Medal was generally delegated no lower than brigadier generals in command of separate brigades. However, the records of the Awards Branch of the U.S. Army Human Resources Command show that authority for award of the Bronze Star Medal for service had been delegated to colonels in command of the U.S. Army Support Commands located at Saigon, Cam Ranh Bay, and Qui Nhon and in command of separate engineer brigades in Vietnam assigned to the U.S. Army Engineer Troops (Provisional).

4. Army Regulation 635-5 (Separations Documents) in effect DD Form 214 is a summary of the Soldier's most recent period of continuous active duty. For item 24; enter all decorations and awards from DA Form 20 (Enlisted Qualification Board).

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//