

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 1 April 2025

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240008984

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

- Purple Heart
- Army Good Conduct Medal
- Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation
- additional awards inadvertently omitted for his service in Vietnam

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- DD Form 214 effective 24 July 1968

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 a DD Form 215 (Correction to DD Form 214) reflecting all awards, citations, and medals earned during his service period in Vietnam with the 265th Military Police (MP) Battalion, 198th Brigade. He was also wounded and presented a Purple Heart; however, it is not listed on his DD Form 214. He also believes he should have earned the Army Good Conduct Medal, in addition to the bronze service stars missing from his Vietnam Service Medal. He served his country honorably during combat.
3. A review of the applicant's service record shows:
 - a. He was inducted into the Army of the United States on 27 September 1966.

b. His DA Form 20 (Enlisted Qualification Record) lists the applicant's service period in Vietnam as 4 October 1967 to on or about 22 June 1968. It also shows:

- Item 33 (Appointments and Reductions) – no reductions
- Item 38 (Record of Assignments) – all excellent conduct and efficiency ratings; assigned to the 265th MP Platoon, 198th Infantry Brigade in Vietnam
- Item 41 (Awards and Decorations) – Marksman Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Pistol Bar; Marksman Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar
- Item 44 (Time Lost Under Section 972, Title 10, U.S.C.) – none

c. General Orders Number 128 dated 22 May 1968, awarded the applicant, among other Soldiers, the Purple Heart for wounds received in action on 21 May 1968 in the Republic of Vietnam.

d. On 24 July 1968, he was honorably released from active duty. His DD Form 214 shows he completed 1 year, 9 months, and 28 days of active service with no lost time. It also shows he was awarded or authorized:

- National Defense Service Medal
- Vietnam Campaign Medal
- Vietnam Service Medal

4. His records are void of any disciplinary actions or a commander's disqualification for award of the AGCM.

5. A review of the applicant's service record confirms he is eligible for awards and campaign credits that are not recorded on his DD Form 214. The entries will be added to his DD Form 214 as administrative corrections and will not be considered by the Board.

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 information reflected on the applicant's DA Form 2-1 showing he had all excellent conduct and efficiency ratings during his period of military service, the Board concluded that awarding and adding the Army Good Conduct Medal was warranted.

2. The Board noted that all other requested relief was properly annotated below in the administrative notes.

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 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 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):

A review of the applicant's service records show he is authorized additional awards and campaign credits not annotated on his DD Form 214. As a result, amend his DD Form 214 to show:

- Purple Heart
- Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation
- Marksman Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Pistol Bar (.45 Cal)
- Marksman Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-14)
- three bronze service stars with his previously awarded Vietnam Service Medal

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), currently in effect, prescribes Department of the Army policy, criteria, and administrative instructions concerning individual and unit 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.

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 ARCM 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.

3. Army Regulation 672-5-1 (Decorations and Awards), in effect at the time, stated the AGCM was awarded for each 3 years of continuous enlisted active Federal military service completed on or after 27 August 1940; for the first award only, 1 year served entirely during the period 7 December 1941 to 2 March 1946; and, 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. The enlisted person must have had all "excellent" conduct and efficiency ratings. Ratings of "unknown" for portions of the period under consideration were not disqualifying. Service school efficiency ratings based upon academic proficiency of at least "good" rendered subsequent to 22 November 1955 were not disqualifying. There

must have been no convictions by a court-martial. However, there was no right or entitlement to the medal until the immediate commander made a positive recommendation for its award and until the awarding authority announced the award in general orders.

4. Department of the Army Pamphlet 672-3 (Unit Citations and Campaign Participation Credit Register) assist commanders and personnel officers in determining or establishing the eligibility of individual members for campaign participation credit, assault landing credit, and unit citation badges awarded during the Vietnam Conflict. Department of the Army General Orders (DAGO) Number 8, dated 1974, awarded the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation with Palm to Headquarters, United States Army Vietnam, for service in Vietnam for the period of 20 July 1965 to 28 March 1973.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//