

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 8 April 2025

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240009051

APPLICANT REQUESTS: issuance of Vietnam era Air Medals; flight records shows 18

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- Self-Authored Letter
- Basic Air Medal Note
- General Orders 9914 Award of the Distinguished Flying Cross
- DD Form 214 (Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge)
- Document Entitled Awards and Decorations
- Individual Flight Records

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, an Air Medal was issued for each 25 flight hours, during the period of his tour. None were issued to many of the Soldiers, during that time period. It was a busy time and awards and decorations were a low priority. He is requesting the awards because they were earned.
3. The applicant provides and his service record shows:
 - Special Orders 139, 27 May 1969, appointed him as an Army Aviator
 - On 14 July 1969, he applied for appointment as a warrant officer
 - An undated note from Captain J- E. G-, states: "Awarded: from 24 March through 10 August 1970 6th through 18th Award Basic Air Medal Oak Leaf Clusters" to the applicant
 - General Orders 9914, 26 August 1970 awarded him the Distinguished Flying Cross for heroism while participating in aerial flight on 30 May 1970

- Undated document entitled, Awards and Decorations shows handwritten flight hours
- Individual Flight Records showing hours flying from August 1969 through August 1970
- On 17 February 1971, he was honorably discharged from the Active Army Aviation Corps. He had 11 months and 29 days in Vietnam, his specialty was a rotary wing pilot, and he received the Aviation Badge
- On 9 December 2004, he was issued a DD Form 215 (Correction to his DD Form 214) which amended his awards to add the Bronze Star Medal (2nd Award), Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal (2nd Award), Army Commendation Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with "M" Device

BOARD DISCUSSION:

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 provided flight records, the Board concluded there was sufficient evidence to amend the applicant's DD Form 215 to show he qualified for Air Medal (18th Award).

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:

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 military record to show he qualified and was awarded Air Medal (18th Award).

//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.

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.
3. Army Regulation 600-8-22 (Military Awards) implements a part of the Army Awards Program. In pertinent part 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.

4. 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//