

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 14 April 2025

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240009102

APPLICANT REQUESTS: correction of his DD Form 214 (Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge) for the period ending 11 June 1970 to show:

- award of the Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device
- his social security number (SSN) as [REDACTED] on two of his award certificates

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record under the Provisions of Title 10, U.S. Code, Section 1552)
- two Bronze Star Medal Certificates
- two Army Commendation Medal Certificates
- DD Form 214

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 his SSN is incorrectly entered on two of the four awards certificates he submitted with his application and he wants his Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device added to his DD Form 214.
3. The applicant provides copies of:
 - a. two Bronze Star Medal Certificates:
 - 30 April 1970, for heroism in ground combat in the Republic of Vietnam on 11 January 1970 showing his SSN as [REDACTED]

- 29 June 1970, for meritorious achievement in ground operations against hostile forces in the Republic of Vietnam from 1 January 1970 to 30 April 1970 showing his SSN as [REDACTED]

b. two Army Commendation Medal Certificates:

- 9 May 1970, for heroism in the Republic of Vietnam on 11 January 1970 showing his SSN as [REDACTED]
- 29 June 1971, for meritorious achievement in the Republic of Vietnam from 15 June 1971 showing his Army service number as [REDACTED]

4. A review of the applicant's service record shows:

a. He enlisted in the Regular Army on 26 August 1968. His DD Form 4 (Enlistment Contract – Armed Forces of the United States) shows his SSN as [REDACTED].

b. He received foreign service credit for service in Vietnam from 31 August 1969 through 11 June 1970.

c. His DA Form 20 (Enlisted Qualification Record) shows his SSN as [REDACTED] and shows he was assigned to:

- 23d Administrative Company Replacement Detachment as a student from 4 September 1969 through 14 September 1969
- Company C, 2d Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment, 196th Infantry Brigade, as a squad leader from 15 September 1969 through 8 June 1970

d. Headquarters, U.S. Army Training Center and Fort Leonard Wood, Special Orders Number 298, 24 October 1968, awarded him the Sharpshooter Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-16) and Second-Class (Marksman) Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Grenade Bar. His SSN is shown as [REDACTED].

e. The DA Form 2496 (Disposition Form), 29 August 1968, noted a possible discrepancy recording his SSN during his enlistment processing and notes his SSN was entered as [REDACTED] on his DD Form 4 and should read [REDACTED].

f. Headquarters, Americal Division, General Orders Number 3695, 9 April 1970, awarded him the Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device for heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force on 11 January 1970 while assigned to Company C, 2d Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment, 196th Infantry Brigade. His SSN is shown as [REDACTED].

g. Headquarters, Americal Division, General Orders Number 4424, 3 May 1970, awarded him the Army Commendation Medal for meritorious achievement in connection with military operations against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam from 15 March 1970 to 15 April 1970 while assigned to Company C, 2d Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment, 196th Infantry Brigade. His SSN is shown as [REDACTED].

h. Headquarters, Americal Division, General Orders Number 5934, 10 June 1970, awarded him the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious achievement in connection with military operations against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam from 1 January 1970 to 30 April 1970 while assigned to Company C, 2d Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment, 196th Infantry Brigade. His SSN is shown as [REDACTED].

i. His available service records are void of orders awarding him the Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device for heroism in the Republic of Vietnam on 11 January 1970 as shown on the Bronze Star Medal Certificate he provided in support of his application; however, he provided and his records confirm that he was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device for heroism in the Republic of Vietnam on 11 January 1970.

j. He was honorably released from active duty on 11 June 1970. Block 3 (SSN) of his DD Form 214 shows his SSN as [REDACTED]. He completed 1 year, 9 months, and 16 days of net active service, including 9 months and 11 days of foreign service in Vietnam, with no lost time. He was awarded or authorized the:

- National Defense Service Medal
- Vietnam Service Medal
- Vietnam Campaign Medal
- Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device
- Combat Infantryman Badge
- Marksman Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-14)
- one overseas service bar

5. On 21 October 1971, he was issued a DD Form 215 (Correction to DD Form 214) for the period ending 11 June 1970, adding the following awards:

- Bronze Star Medal
- Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device and First Oak Leaf Cluster
- Vietnam Service Medal with three bronze service stars
- Republic of Vietnam Service Medal Campaign Medal with Device (1960)
- Sharpshooter Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Automatic Rifle Bar

6. A review of the Awards and Decorations Computer Assisted Retrieval System maintained by the U.S. Army Human Resources Command, an index of general orders

issued between 1965 and 1973 during the Vietnam era, failed to reveal any orders awarding him the Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device for heroism in ground combat in the Republic of Vietnam on 11 January 1970.

7. Department of the Army General Orders Number 42, 1972, awarded the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation to the 2d Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment, for service in Vietnam for the period of 24 August 1969 to 31 December 1969.

BOARD DISCUSSION:

1. After reviewing the application, all supporting documents, and the evidence found within the applicant's military records, the Board found that relief was warranted. The applicant's contentions, his military records, and regulatory guidance were carefully considered.

- Award of the BSM with "V" Device. Grant: The Board found that two of his Certificate listed the incorrect social security number on them (BSM with "V" Device, dated 30 April 1970 and his ARCOM, dated 9 May 1970). In addition, the Board found the prior DD Form 215 to be incorrect. The Board found the evidence provided by the applicant credible, which shows he was authorized the BSM with "V" Device on 30 April 1970 for acts of heroism. Therefore, the Board determined relief was warranted and granted relief. The Board also notes he is entitled to the Army Good Conduct Medal (First Award)
- Amend his SSN on two of his Certificate (BSM and "V" Device and ARCOM) to reflect his correct SSN: Note: The Board notes that Certificates no longer are issued with the SSN; therefore, the applicant will be re-issued new Certificates for the above awards without the SSN

2. Administrative Note: The applicant is authorized administrative correction of his DD Form 214 for the period ending 11 June 1970 to show he was authorized the following awards:

- Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation
- Sharpshooter Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-16)
- Marksman Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Grenade Bar

BOARD VOTE:

Mbr 1 Mbr 2 Mbr 3

XX	XX	XX	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 relief. As a result, the Board recommends that all Department of the Army records of the individual concerned be corrected by amending the applicant's DD Form 214, for the period ending 11 June 1970 by:

- Awarding him the BSM with "V" Device
- Awarding him the Army Good Conduct Medal (First Award) for the qualifying period 26 August 1968 to 11 June 1970
- Adding the Army Good Conduct Medal (First Award) to his DD Form 214
- Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation
- Sharpshooter Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-16)
- Marksman Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Grenade Bar
- Reissuing the following Certificates:
 - BSM with "V" Device dated 30 April 1970
 - ARCOM, dated 9 May 1970


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 administrative correction of his DD Form 214 for the period ending 11 June 1970 to show:

b. award of the:

- Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation
- Sharpshooter Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-16)
- Marksman Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Grenade Bar

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) prescribes Army policy, criteria, and administrative instructions concerning individual and unit military awards.

a. 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.

b. Only one decoration will be awarded to an individual or unit for the same act, achievement, or period of meritorious service. The award of a decoration in recognition of a single act of heroism or meritorious achievement does not preclude an award for meritorious service at the termination of an assignment. Recommendations for award of a decoration for meritorious service will not refer to acts of heroism or meritorious achievements which have been previously recognized by award of a decoration. Continuation of the same or similar type of service already recognized by an award for meritorious service or achievement will not be the basis for a second award. If appropriate, an award may be made to include the extended period of service by superseding the earlier award or the award previously made may be amended to incorporate the extended period of service.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//