

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 8 April 2025

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240009103

APPLICANT REQUESTS: correction of DD Form 214 (Armed Forces of the U.S. Report of Transfer or Discharge) for the period ending on 28 February 1972, to reflect award of:

- Army Good Conduct Medal
- Joint Service Commendation Medal
- Bronze Star Medal

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- DD Form 214, 28 February 1972 – reflective of active-duty service performed between 29 April 1968 – 28 February 1972; item 24 (Decorations, Medals, Badges, Commendations, Citations and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized) reflects:
 - National Defense Service Medal
 - Vietnam Service Medal (w/ 2 Bronze Service Stars)
 - Vietnam Campaign Medal (w/ 1960 device)
 - Army Commendation Medal
- General Orders Number 4943 – reflective of the applicant being awarded the Army Good Conduct Medal for service performed between 29 April 1968 – 28 April 1971
- Certificate – reflective of the applicant being authorized the Joint Service Commendation Medal for his meritorious service performed between 3 January 1972 – 7 February 1972
- Certificate – reflective of the accompanying citation associated with the Joint Service Commendation Medal
- Certificate – reflective of the applicant being awarded the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious achievement in ground operations against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam from April 1971 – February 1972
- Certificate - reflective of the accompanying citation associated with the Bronze Star Medal

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 pertinent part that his DD Form 214 is incorrect because it does not accurately reflect all authorized awards.
3. A review of the applicant's available service records reflects the following:
 - On 5 January 1968 – the applicant enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserve for 4 years
 - On 29 April 1968 – the applicant was ordered to active duty
 - On 27 November 1971 (General Orders Number 4943) – awarded the applicant his first Army Good Conduct Medal for the period of 29 April 1968 – 28 April 1971
 - On 14 April 1972 (General Orders Number 1040) – awarded the Joint Service Commendation Medal for meritorious achievement in a joint command from 3 January 1972 – 7 February 1972
 - On 28 February 1972 – honorably released from active duty and transferred into the USAR
4. Review of the Awards and Decorations Computer-Assisted Retrieval System (ADCARS), an index of general orders issued during the Vietnam era between 1965 and 1973 maintained by the Awards and Decorations Branch of the U.S. Army Human Resources Command, failed to reveal any orders for the Bronze Star Medal.

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 available documentation, the Board made the following findings and recommendations related to the requested relief:

- Army Good Conduct Medal: GRANT, based upon the provided order, dated 27 November 1971, showing the applicant was previously awarded the AGCM.
- Joint Service Commendation Medal: GRANT, based upon the provided award certificate and general order within his military record showing the applicant was previously awarded the JSCM.
- Bronze Star Medal: GRANT, based upon the provided award certificate showing the applicant was previously awarded the BSM.

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 DD Form 214 by awarding and adding the Army Good Conduct Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, and the Broze Star.

//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 (AR) 672-5-1 (Decorations, Awards, and Honors Military Awards) promulgates the Department of the Army policy, criteria and administrative instructions concerning individual awards.

a. Paragraph 2-14 (Bronze Star Medal) provides that the Bronze Star Medal is awarded to any person who, while serving in any capacity in or with the Army of the United States after 6 December 1941, distinguished himself by heroic or meritorious achievement or service, not involving participation in aerial flight, in connection with military operations against an armed enemy; while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing armed force in which the U.S. is not a belligerent party.

b. Paragraph 1-23 (Announcement of Awards) provides that awards made by the President, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of the Army will be announced on the Department of the Army General Orders or Letter Orders. Service Medals are administratively awarded to individuals who qualify under criteria announced in the Department of the Army Directive. Orders are not required.

3. Army Regulation (AR) 15-185 (ABCMR) paragraph 2-9 states the ABCMR begins its consideration of each case with the presumption of administrative regularity. The applicant has the burden of proving an error or injustice by a preponderance of the evidence.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//