

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 16 April 2025

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240009149

APPLICANT REQUESTS: correction of his DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) for the period ending 1 May 1996 to show award of the:

- Army Commendation Medal
- Army Achievement Medal (4th Award)
- United Nations Medal (Bosnia)
- Nine Certificates of Achievement

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)
- four DD Forms 638 (Recommendation for Award (for Other than Valor) of Army Achievement Medal, Army Commendation Medal, and Meritorious Service Medal)
- four Army Achievement Medal Certificates
- Nine Certificates of Achievement
- 1st Endorsement (Appreciation), 6 November 1995
- Primary Leadership Development Course Certificate, 16 December 1994
- DA Form 1059
- two DD Forms 214 for the periods ending 7 December 1990 and 1 May 1996
- National Guard Bureau Form 22 for the period ending 3 May 1996

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 DD Form 214 only reflects one Army Achievement Medal, but he earned a total of four Army Achievement Medals. He also earned an Army Commendation Medal, nine Certificates of Achievement, and a United Nations Medal

(Bosnia) that are not reflected on his DD Form 214. These awards should be added to his DD Form 214.

3. The applicant provides copies of several documents from his service records, including:

a. Four DD Forms 638/638-1 showing he was recommended twice for the Army Commendation Medal and twice for the Army Achievement Medal. His recommendations for the Army Commendation Medal were downgraded to the Army Achievement Medal. Permanent orders (PO) were issued for all approved awards;

b. Four Army Achievement Medal Certificates including one certificate dated 9 June 1994 signed by Lieutenant Colonel C____ F. H____ for meritorious achievement from 18 February 1994 through 23 June 1994 while serving as a carpenter/equipment operator deployed in support of Operation Able Sentry in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia assigned to Task Force, 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment. All certificates show PO were issued; and

c. Nine Certificates of Achievement, including one certificate dated 9 June 1994 signed by Lieutenant Colonel C____ F. H____ for meritorious service with the United Nations Protection Forces in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia while assigned to 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry Regiment, in support of Operation Able Sentry.

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

a. He enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserve on 16 December 1986.

b. He entered active duty training on 8 August 1990 and was honorably released from active duty training on 7 December 1990. His DD Form 214 shows he completed 4 months of net active service with no lost time. He was awarded primary military occupational specialty 62E (Heavy Construction Equipment Operator). His service was uncharacterized. He was awarded or authorized the:

- Army Service Ribbon
- Expert Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Grenade Bar
- Marksman Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-16)

c. He enlisted in the Regular Army on 1 May 1996.

d. He was awarded the Army Achievement Medal on four occasions:

- 9 June 1994 in PO Number 160-17
- 22 July 1994 in PO Number 144-2

- 8 June 1995 in PO Number 10-8
- 21 February 1996 in PO Number 52-003

e. His service records are void of PO awarding him the Army Commendation Medal or United Nations Medal (Bosnia), or orders showing he was assigned to or served under the operational or tactical control of the United Nations.

f. He was honorably released from active duty on 1 May 1996. He completed 5 years and 4 months of net active service with no lost time. His DD Form 214 shows he was awarded or authorized the:

- Army Achievement Medal
- Joint Meritorious Unit Award
- Army Good Conduct Medal
- Army Service Ribbon
- Overseas Service Ribbon
- Expert Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Grenade Bar
- Marksman Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar

5. A review of the applicant's records confirms he is authorized awards that are not recorded on his DD Form 214. These awards 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, all supporting documents, and the evidence found within the military record, the Board found that relief was not warranted. The Board carefully considered the applicant's record of service, documents submitted in support of the petition and executed a comprehensive and standard review based on law, policy and regulation. The Board considered regulatory guidance for the DD Form 214, specifically that only decorations, medals, and ribbons are listed. Certificates of achievement, letters of appreciation, and similar documents are not listed. The Board also noted recommendations for the Army Commendation Medal were downgraded to Army Achievement Medals. Upon review of the applicant's petition and available military record, the Board determined the applicant did not provide nor did his service record contain evidence which would warrant award of the Army Commendation Medal and/or the United Nations Medal.

2. Prior to closing the case, the Board did note the analyst of record administrative notes below, and recommended the correction be completed to more accurately depict the military service of the applicant.

BOARD VOTE:

<u>Mbr 1</u>	<u>Mbr 2</u>	<u>Mbr 3</u>	
:	:	:	GRANT FULL RELIEF
:	:	:	GRANT PARTIAL RELIEF
:	:	:	GRANT FORMAL HEARING
XXX	XXX	XXX	DENY APPLICATION

BOARD DETERMINATION/RECOMMENDATION:

Except for the correction addressed in Administrative Note(s) below, the Board found 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.

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):

1. The applicant is authorized administrative correction of his DD Form 214 for the period ending 7 December 1990 to show his character of service as honorable.
2. The applicant is authorized administrative correction of his DD Form 214 for the period ending 1 May 1996 to show award of the Army Achievement Medal (4th Award).

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) provides Army policy, criteria, and administrative instructions concerning individual military decorations.

a. The Army Commendation Medal may be awarded to any member of the Armed Forces of the United States who, while serving in any capacity with the Army after 6 December 1941, distinguishes himself or herself by heroism, meritorious achievement, or meritorious service. As with all personal decorations, formal recommendations, approval through the chain of command, and announcement in orders are required.

b. The United Nations Medal is awarded in the name of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to an individual who served under the operational or tactical control of the United Nations and served a minimum of 90 consecutive days in the service of the United Nations. The senior representative of the Secretary-General who makes the award normally makes presentation of the United Nations Medal in the field. Approval authority to accept and wear the United Nations Medal to a member of the Armed Forces of the United States is the Secretary of Defense; the approved medals list is available at <https://prhome.defense.gov/m-ra/inside-m-ra/mpp/oepm/>. When presentation is not so accomplished, any person who believes he or she is eligible for the award may submit a request to the U.S. Army Human Resources Command (HRC), ATTN: AHRC-PDO-PA, 200 Stovall Street, Alexandria VA 22332-0471, with a copy of any substantiating documents. HRC will forward each such request through the Office of Internal Administration, Office of the Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs, to the United Nations for consideration.

3. Army Regulation 635-8 (Separation Documents) provides principles of support, standards of service, policies, tasks, rules, and steps governing required actions in the field to support processing personnel for separation and preparation of separation documents. Paragraph 5-6 provides detailed instructions for data required in each block of the DD Form 214.

a. Paragraph 5-6m states to list all federally recognized awards and decorations for all periods of service; do not use abbreviations; do not enter foreign or State-level awards. There are no provisions for recording Certificates of Achievement on a DD Form 214.

b. Paragraph 5-6x(1) provides that when a Reserve Component Soldier successfully completes initial active duty training, the character of service is honorable unless directed otherwise by the separation approval authority.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//