

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 15 May 2025

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240009249

APPLICANT REQUESTS: reconsideration of his prior request for award of the Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- Headquarters, U.S. Army Field Artillery Center and Fort Sill letter, undated

FACTS:

1. Incorporated herein by reference are military records which were summarized in the previous consideration of the applicant's case by the Army Board for Correction of Military Records (ABCMR) in Docket Number AR20190001342 on 8 April 2019.
2. The applicant states he has attached a letter notifying him of award of the Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device from Vietnam. He responded to the letter, but was unable to ever receive the award.
3. The applicant was inducted into the Army of the United States on 25 October 1967.
4. The applicant's DA Form 20 (Enlisted Qualification Record) shows:
 - he served in Vietnam from 21 April 1968 through 7 July 1968
 - he was awarded or authorized the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960), and the Purple Heart
5. The applicant's available records do not contain orders awarding him the Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device.
6. The applicant's DD Form 214 (Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge) shows:
 - he was retired due to disability on 12 November 1968

- he was credited with 1 year, 1 month, and 18 days of net active service this period
- he was awarded or authorized the Purple Heart, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960), National Defense Service Medal, and Sharpshooter Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-14)

7. An undated Headquarters, U.S. Army Field Artillery Center and Fort Sill letter to the applicant informed him that headquarters was in receipt of material pertaining to award of the Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device and they would welcome the opportunity to make the presentation on their post. A handwritten note on the bottom of the letter shows the letter was answered on 7 June 1971.

8. The applicant previously applied to the ABCMR in January 2019, requesting correction of his DD Form 214 to reflect award of the Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device. On 8 April 2019, the Board denied his request, determining the evidence presented did not demonstrate the existence of a probable error or injustice and the overall merits of his case were insufficient as a basis for correction of his record.

9. A review of the Awards and Decorations Computer Assisted Retrieval System (ADCARS) maintained by the U.S. Army Human Resources Command Military Awards Branch, an index of general orders issued during the Vietnam era between 1965 and 1973, failed to reveal any orders for the Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device pertaining to the applicant.

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 review based on law, policy, and regulation. The evidence of record confirms that the applicant was inducted into the Army of the United States (AUS) on 25 October 1967 and served in the Republic of Vietnam from 21 April 1968 through 7 July 1968. The applicant contends entitlement to the Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device.

2. However, his official military personnel records are void of any orders or documentation awarding him this decoration. A review of the appropriate human resources systems likewise failed to reveal any supporting orders or entries verifying award of the Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device. In accordance with governing regulations, individual awards must be supported by official orders. Absent substantiating documentation, the Board cannot authorize correction of the applicant's records to reflect award of the Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device. The Board

acknowledges the applicant's honorable service in Vietnam; however, the evidence does not establish entitlement to the requested award. Based on the foregoing, the Board concludes that the applicant has not met the burden of proof necessary to support the requested relief.

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:

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 amendment of the ABCMR decision rendered in Docket Number AR20190001342 on 8 April 2019.

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.

REFERENCES:

Army Regulation 600-8-22 (Military Awards) prescribes Army policy, criteria, and administrative instructions concerning individual and unit military awards.

a. The Army Commendation Medal may be awarded to any member of the Armed Forces of the United States who, while service 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 bronze "V" device indicates acts of heroism involving conflict with an armed enemy and authorizes the bronze "V" device in conjunction with awards of the Army Commendation Medal, the Air Medal, and the Bronze Star Medal. Although more than one award of the Army Commendation Medal, the Air Medal, or the Bronze Star Medal may be made for heroism to the same person, only one "V" device may be worn on awards of the Army Commendation Medal, the Air Medal, or the Bronze Star Medal.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//