

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 7 August 2025

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240009306

APPLICANT REQUESTS: correction of his DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) to show:

- Royal Thai Parachutist Badge with Fourragere (Novice)
- Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Bronze Star
- Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces Honor Medal (First Class)
- Meritorious Unit Commendation
- Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation (2nd award)

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- Memorandum from the U.S. Army Personnel Center (currently know as the U.S. Army Human Resources Command), Military Awards Branch, dated 14 February 1975, subject: Foreign Awards

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 he is requesting his foreign and unit awards be included on his DD Form 214. When he retired in 1981, personnel stated that his records did not contain official approval for the foreign awards. He was unable to locate his copy of the approval until he was clearing out some files recently. He also discovered that a unit award was also omitted from the DD Form 214. The omissions were a clerical error and should be corrected to reflect an accurate record of his service. He further states he served in Vietnam with the 3rd Battalion, 319th Artillery, 173rd Airborne Brigade from 12 July 1965 to 1 June 1966 and with Team 71, Delta Regional Assistance Command, Military Assistance Command Vietnam from 17 May 1971 to 15 December 1972.

3. Following enlisted service in the Regular Army, the applicant was appointed a Reserve commissioned officer on 22 January 1963 and he entered active duty on the same date.

4. The applicant's DA Form 66 (Officer Qualification Record), in effect during his service in Vietnam, is not available. This form would have shown his units of assignment during his service in Vietnam.

5. The applicant's DA Form 2-1 (Personnel Qualification Record-Part II), initiated in April 1974, shows in item 5 (Oversea Service) he served in Vietnam from 12 July 1965 to 10 June 1966 and from 16 May 1971 to 10 December 1972. Item 35 (Record of Assignments) of the DA Form 2-1 does not show his units of assignment history prior to October 1973.

6. The applicant's DD Form 214 shows he was retired for length of service on 31 March 1981. His DD Form 214 also shows, among other awards, the Vietnam Service Medal (5 campaigns (i.e. one silver service star)) and the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation.

7. The applicant provided a memorandum from the U.S. Army Personnel Center (currently known as the U.S. Army Human Resources Command), Military Awards Branch, dated 14 February 1975, subject: Foreign Awards, showing he was authorized to accept the:

- Royal Thai Parachutist Badge with Fourragere (Novice)
- Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Bronze Star
- Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces Honor Medal (First Class)

#### BOARD DISCUSSION:

1. After reviewing the application, all supporting documents, and the evidence found within the military record, the Board found that partial relief was 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 Board noted that the evidence of record shows the applicant is entitled to the following awards: Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Bronze Star, and the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces Honor Medal (First Class) based on Army Regulation.

2. The Board also found, however, relief was not warranted for the award of the Royal Thai Parachutist Badge because foreign awards are not reflected on DD 214s. The Meritorious Unit Commendation and the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with

Palm Unit Citation (2<sup>nd</sup> Award) was not warranted because the Board did not find documentary evidence that clearly or explicitly shows he was in a unit authorized, awarded and authorized the Meritorious Unit Commendation. Therefore, based on the evidence, the Board determined the applicant does not meet the criteria for award of the Meritorious Unit Citation and the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation (2<sup>nd</sup>) Award.

BOARD VOTE:

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

BOARD DETERMINATION/RECOMMENDATION:

1. The Board determined the evidence presented is sufficient to warrant partial 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 31 March 1981 to show the following awards:

- Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Bronze Star
- Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces Honor Medal (First Class)

2. The Board further determined that the evidence presented is insufficient to warrant a portion of the requested relief. As a result, the Board recommends denial of so much of the application that pertains to award Meritorious Unit Citation, the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Plan Unit Citation (2<sup>nd</sup> Award) and the Royal Thai Parachutist Badge with Fourragere (Novice).

**//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 600-8-22 (Military Awards) states in:

a. Paragraph 9-24: Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation. The unit citation of the Gallantry Cross is awarded by the Vietnamese government for valorous combat achievement. It is awarded in four degrees as follows:

- with Palm to a unit which is cited before the Armed Forces
- with Gold Star to a unit which is cited before a corps
- with Silver Service Star to a unit which is cited before a division
- with Bronze Star to a unit which is cited before a regiment or brigade

b. Paragraph 9-26d (Foreign Badges/Official Records), foreign badges are not annotated in an individual's Soldier's record brief or entered on DD Form 214. The approved memorandum for acceptance and wear of foreign badges endorsed by the approval authority, to include a copy of the certificate and its supporting documents, will be entered in the Army Military Human Resource Record (AMHRR) of the recipient.

c. Paragraph 9-27d (Foreign Decorations/Official Records), foreign decorations are not annotated in an individual's Soldier's AMHRR or entered on DD Form 214. The approved memorandum for acceptance and wear of foreign decorations endorsed by the approval authority, to include a copy of the certificate and its supporting documents, will be entered in the AMHRR of the recipient.

d. Appendix I (Foreign and International Decorations and Awards to U.S. Army Personnel), Table I-1 (Requesting approval to accept and wear foreign badges and decorations authorized by U.S. Army Human Resources Command), Note 3, foreign badges and decorations listed on the U.S. Army Human Resources Command Awards and Decorations Branch website will not be updated in the Soldier's records or DD Form 214. Only those foreign badges and decorations published in this regulation can be updated.

e. The Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces Honor Medal (First Class) is not identified in the regulation as an authorized award to be recorded on the DD Form 214.

3. Department of the Army Pamphlet 672-3 (Unit Citation and Campaign Participation Credit Register) lists the awards received by units serving in Vietnam. This pamphlet shows:

a. The 3rd Battalion, 319th Artillery was awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation for service during the period 5 May 1965 to May 1967 and the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation for service during the period 5 May 1965 to 26 September 1970.

b. Department of the Army General Orders 8, dated 1974, announced award of the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation for service in Vietnam to the following units:

(1) Headquarters, United States Military Assistance Command and its subordinate units during the period 8 February 1962 to 28 March 1973.

(2) Headquarters, United States Army Vietnam and its subordinate units during the period 20 July 1965 to 28 March 1973.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//