

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 3 April 2025

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240009341

APPLICANT REQUESTS:

- In effect, correction of his DD Form 214 (Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge) to show the following awards:
  - Overseas Service Ribbon
  - Vietnam Service Medal
  - Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960)
  - "Berlin Campaign Medal"
  - Cold War Recognition Certificate
  - Expert Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-14)
  - National Defense Service Medal
- Permission to appear personally before the Board, via video/telephone

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- 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:

- He is eligible for the above-listed awards based on his time in service but never received them; he believes he may be authorized additional awards
- Apart from his DD Form 214, the applicant provides no supporting documentary evidence

3. The following requests will not be addressed by the Board in the record of proceedings:

a. Overseas Service Ribbon.

- Per Army Regulation (AR) 600-8-22 (Military Awards), the Overseas Service Ribbon was not established until April 1981
- Effective 1 August 1981, Regular Army Soldiers could receive this award based upon successful completion of an overseas tour
- The Overseas Service Ribbon could be awarded retroactively only if the Soldier was on active duty as of 1 August 1981

b. Cold War Recognition Certificate.

- The Cold War Recognition Certificate is a Department of Defense (DOD) recognition and can be awarded to all service members who served during the Cold War (2 September 1945 to 26 December 1991); the Secretary of the Army administers this program on behalf of DOD
- Applications for this certificate can be requested from the U.S. Army Human Resources Command (AHRC-PDP-A), 1600 Spearhead Division Avenue, Fort Knox, KY 40122-5408

c. Expert Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-14). This badge is already listed on the applicant's DD Form 214.

3. The applicant's requested relief for the award of the National Defense Service Medal is supported by sufficient evidence; as a result, this portion of the requested relief will be addressed in the "ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE(S)" section and will not be further considered by the Board.

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

- On 15 March 1961, the applicant enlisted into the Regular Army
- On 8 October 1961, the applicant arrived at his new duty station, a battle group within the 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, located in Bamberg, Germany
- Apart from leave in the continental United States, from December 1962 to January 1963, the applicant remained assigned to the 15th Infantry Regiment; his service record is void of any documentation showing service in either Berlin or Vietnam
- On 10 March 1964, the applicant completed his tour in Germany, and the Army honorably released him from active duty and transferred him to the U.S. Army Reserve (USAR) Control Group (Reinforcement)

- The applicant's service record includes DA Forms 1140 (Army Reserve Qualifications Questionnaire), all of which reflect the applicant remained a member of the USAR Control Group (Reinforcement), from 11 March 1964 to 29 April 1966; no further active duty service is reflected
- Effective 30 April 1966, orders transferred him to the USAR Control Group (Standby); he completed his Reserve obligation, on 14 March 1967

BOARD DISCUSSION:

1. After reviewing the application and all supporting documents, 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.
  - a. Overseas Service Ribbon. Deny. Per Army Regulation 600-8-22 (Military Awards), the Overseas Service Ribbon was not established until April 1981. Effective 1 August 1981, Regular Army Soldiers could receive this award based upon successful completion of an overseas tour. The Overseas Service Ribbon could be awarded retroactively only if the Soldier was on active duty as of 1 August 1981. The applicant served on active duty from 15 March 1961 to 10 March 1964 and his record does not support a period of active duty after 1 August 1981.
  - b. Vietnam Service Medal and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with 1960 Device. Deny. The applicant's service record does not contain evidence of service in the Republic of Vietnam.
  - c. Berlin Campaign Medal Deny. His service in Europe is noted, however, the applicant's service record does not contain evidence of service Berlin.
  - d. Expert Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-14) Deny. The Board determined the evidence of record shows the M-14 qualification badge is already listed on the applicant's DD Form 214.
  - e. National Defense Service Medal. Grant. The Board determined the evidence of record shows the applicant's period of service qualified him for the NDSM as provided for in the administrative notes section.
2. The applicant's request for a personal appearance hearing was carefully considered. In this case, the evidence of record was sufficient to render a fair and equitable decision. As a result, a personal appearance hearing is not necessary to serve the interest of equity and justice in this case.

BOARD VOTE:

Mbr 1   Mbr 2   Mbr 3

:   :   :   GRANT FULL RELIEF

         GRANT PARTIAL RELIEF

:   :   :   GRANT FORMAL HEARING

:   :   :   DENY APPLICATION

BOARD DETERMINATION/RECOMMENDATION:

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 10 March 1964 to show award of the National Defense Service Medal.

4/16/2025



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) 600-8-22 (Military Awards), currently in effect, provides guidance on military awards.
  - a. Paragraph 2-10 (National Defense Service Medal). The National Defense Service Medal is awarded for honorable active service during the period 1 January 1961 to 14 August 1974.
  - b. Paragraph 2-12 (Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal). The Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal may be awarded to Servicemembers for qualifying service after 1 July 1958 in military operations within specific geographic areas during specified time periods. This award was authorized for Soldiers serving in Berlin, between 14 August 1961 and 1 June 1963.
  - c. Paragraph 2-13 (Vietnam Service Medal). The Vietnam Service Medal is awarded to all Servicemembers of the Armed Forces of the United States serving in Vietnam and its contiguous waters or airspace there over after 3 July 1965 through 28 March 1973.
  - d. Paragraph 2-28 (Medal of Humane Action). The Medal of Humane Action is awarded to Servicemembers of the Armed Forces of the United States and to other persons when recommended for meritorious participation for service while participating in the Berlin Airlift or in direct support thereof. Service must have been for at least 120 days during the period between 26 June 1948 and 30 September 1949, inclusive, and within the prescribed boundaries of area of Berlin Airlift operations.
  - e. Paragraph 5-8 (Army of Occupation Medal). The Army of Occupation of Berlin is awarded for service for 30 consecutive days at a normal post of duty (as contrasted to inspector, visitor, courier, escort, passenger, TDY, or detached service) while assigned to a unit stationed in Berlin between 9 May 1945 and 2 October 1990.
  - f. Paragraph 9-14 (Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960). The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal was awarded by the government of the Republic of Vietnam to Servicemembers of the U.S. Armed Forces who served in the Republic of Vietnam for 6 months during period 1 March 1961 to 28 March 1973. Individuals must meet the criteria established for the Vietnam Service Medal during the period of service required to qualify for the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

3. AR 15-185 (Army Board for Correction of Military Records (ABCMR)), currently in effect, states:

a. Paragraph 2-2 (ABCMR Functions). The ABCMR decides cases on the evidence of record; it is not an investigative body.

b Paragraph 2-9 (Burden of Proof) states:

(1) The ABCMR begins its consideration of each case with the presumption of administrative regularity (i.e., the documents in an applicant's service records are accepted as true and accurate, barring compelling evidence to the contrary).

(2) The applicant bears the burden of proving the existence of an error or injustice by presenting a preponderance of evidence, meaning the applicant's evidence is sufficient for the Board to conclude that there is a greater than 50-50 chance what he/she claims is verifiably correct.

c. Paragraph 2-11 (ABCMR) Hearings. Applicants do not have a right to a hearing before the ABCMR; however, the Director or the ABCMR may grant a formal hearing.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//