

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 14 April 2025

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240009365

APPLICANT REQUESTS: correction of his DD Form 214 (Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge) to show in effect the following awards:

- Army Commendation Medal
- Presidential Unit Citation (Navy)
- Meritorious Unit Commendation
- Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation
- Navy Unit Commendation

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- DD Form 214 (Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge)
- DA Form 3522 (Certificate of Appreciation)
- Citation, Army Commendation Medal, October 1968 to October 1969
- General Orders Number 3479, 13 September 1969
- Certificate, "Proud Member of the 4th Artillery", undated

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 was unaware that the 8th Battalion, 4th Artillery was awarded these medals until a reunion in Philadelphia, PA in 2014. His DD Form 149 shows his request is related to his service in the Vietnam War.
3. A review of the applicant's service records show:
 - a. On 20 May 1968, the applicant was inducted into the Army of the United States.

b. His DA Form 20 (Enlisted Qualification Record) shows in:

(1) item 31 (Foreign Service): service in Vietnam from 20 October 1968 to 19 October 1969.

(2) item 38 (Record of Assignments): Service Battery, 8th Battalion, 4th Artillery, from 28 October 1968 to 27 November 1969.

(3) item 41 (Awards and Decorations) – he was awarded:

- National Defense Service Medal
- Vietnam Service Medal
- Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960)
- Overseas Service Bars (2nd Award)
- Army Commendation Medal
- Wheeled Vehicle Driver Badge
- Army Good Conduct Medal
- Expert Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-14)
- Sharpshooter Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-14)

c. On 26 May 1971, he was honorably released from active duty. His DD Form 214 shows:

(1) he was awarded or authorized:

- Army Good Conduct Medal
- National Defense Service Medal
- Expert Marksmanship Qualification Badge
- Vietnam Service Medal
- Wheeled Vehicle Driver Badge
- Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960)

(2) Block 30 (Remarks): service in Vietnam from 20 October 1968 to 19 October 1969.

4. DA Pamphlet 672-3 does not list award of the Presidential Unit Commendation (Navy), during the period of the applicant's assignment to the unit.

5. The applicant's record contains sufficient evidence to support corrections not annotated on his DD Form 214. His DD Form 214 will be administratively corrected to show these awards.

BOARD DISCUSSION:

After reviewing the application, all supporting documents, and the evidence found within the military record, the Board found that partial relief was warranted. The applicant's contentions, the military record, and regulatory guidance were carefully considered.

- Presidential Unit Citation (Navy). Deny: The Board determined that pursuant to Army Regulations, does not list award of the Presidential Unit Commendation (Navy), during the period of the applicant's assignment to the unit. In addition, the Board notes that the applicant needs to go to the Board Navy for Correction of Records to request this award.
- Navy Unit Commendation. Deny: The Board determined there was no orders in the applicant's records to show he was awarded the NUC. In addition, the Board notes that the applicant needs to go to the Board Navy for Correction of Records to request this award.

2. Administrative Note: A review of the applicant's records show he was awarded or authorized the following awards not reflected on his DD Form 214. As a result, amend his DD Form 214 to show:

- Army Commendation Medal
- Meritorious Unit Commendation
- Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation
- four bronze service stars to his previously issued Vietnam Service Medal

BOARD VOTE:

<u>Mbr 1</u>	<u>Mbr 2</u>	<u>Mbr 3</u>	
:	:	:	GRANT FULL RELIEF
XX	XX	XX	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 his DD Form 214, for the period ending 26 May 1971 to show he was authorized the following awards:

- Army Commendation Medal
- Meritorious Unit Commendation
- Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation
- four bronze service stars to his previously issued Vietnam Service Medal


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):

A review of the applicant's records show he was awarded or authorized the following awards not reflected on his DD Form 214. As a result, amend his DD Form 214 to show:

- Army Commendation Medal
- Meritorious Unit Commendation
- Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation
- four bronze service stars to his previously issued Vietnam Service Medal

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. 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 the unit to which the applicant was assigned was cited for award of the:
 - a. Meritorious Unit Commendation, 31 January 1968 to 31 January 1969, Department of the Army General Orders (DAGO) 39, dated 1970.
 - b. Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation, 1 March to 9 October 1971, DAGO 32, dated 1973.
3. Army Regulation 600-8-22 (Military Awards) provides:
 - a. A bronze service star is worn on the appropriate service ribbon, to include the Vietnam Service Medal, for each credited campaign.
 - b. The Presidential Unit Citation (known as the Distinguished Unit Citation until 3 November 1966) is awarded for extraordinary heroism in action. A unit must display such gallantry, determination, and esprit de corps in accomplishing its mission as would warrant award of the Distinguished Service Cross to an individual.
 - c. The Meritorious Unit Commendation is awarded to units for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services for at least 6 continuous months during the period of military operations against an armed enemy occurring on or after 1 January 1944. Units based in the continental United States are excluded from this award, as are other units outside the area of operations.
4. Army Regulation 635-5 (Separation Documents) prescribed the separation documents that would be furnished each individual who was separated from the Army including Active-Duty Training personnel and established standardized procedures for the preparation and distribution of these documents. All available records would be used as a basis for the preparation of the DD Form 214, including DA Form 20. In item 24, enter from section 9, all decorations, service medals, campaign credits, and badges awarded or authorized, omitting authorities cited therein.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//