

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 13 May 2025

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240009443

APPLICANT REQUESTS: correction of his DD Form 214 (Armed Forces of the U.S. Report of Transfer or Discharge) for the period ending on 8 November 1967 to reflect award of the:

- Air Medal
- Presidential Unit Citation

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- DD Form 214 – reflective of the applicant's service on active duty from 9 November 1965 – 8 November 1967; authorized awards:
  - Sharpshooter Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar
  - Army Good Conduct Medal
  - National Defense Service Medal
  - Purple Heart
  - Basic Parachutist Badge
  - Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal
  - Sharpshooter Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Pistol Bar
  - Vietnam Service Medal (w/ 2 bronze service stars)
  - Combat Infantryman Badge
- DD Form 215 (Correction to DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) – reflective of the DD Form 214 for the period ending on 8 November 1967 being corrected to reflect the addition of the following:
  - Service in the Republic of Vietnam from 9 May 1966 – 1 May 1967

Awards –

- Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation
- Valorous Unit Award

- Meritorious Unit Commendation
- Self-Authored letter from Mr. F\_M\_ -
  - served in the Republic of Vietnam from May 1966 – May 1977 as a Platoon Leader and Executive Officer with Echo Troop, 17th Cavalry; responsible for awards
  - attest that the applicant participated in at least 75 air assault missions with Echo Troop, 17th Cavalry
  - contends that their units base camp was destroyed by enemy mortar fire in 1967; all records were burned beyond recognition to include awards for acts of valor
- DD Form 214 (Mr. F\_M\_) – reflective of his service on active duty from 9 June 1965 – 10 August 1973; authorized Air Medal (w/ "V" Device)
- Newspaper articles (Aero-Cav and 173rd Airborne Brigade Aero-Scouts Unique) – reflective of information pertaining to an air rifle platoon operation of Echo Troop, 17th Cavalry and their mission to search and destroy
- Annual Historical Summary, Echo Troop, 17th Cavalry (Airborne), 173rd Airborne Brigade, Republic of Vietnam 1 January 1966 – 31 December 1967 – reflective of an account of events (operations/missions) taking place during the Vietnam War as presented by Mr. F\_M\_
- Valorous Unit Award Citation – in recognition of the extraordinary heroism displayed by members of Echo Troop, 17th Cavalry during the period of 5-25 January 1967

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 that during his service in the Republic of Vietnam he:
  - served as an aero-scout and hunter team member; teams were equipped with various rotary wing aircraft
  - participated in multiple air assault missions (3-4 daily) between 5-20 January in the Iron Triangle; total of 45-50 air assault missions between October 1966 – January 1967
  - believes that his unit was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for meritorious service between November 1966 – January 1968

3. A review of the applicant's service records reflects the following:

- On 9 November 1965 – he was inducted into the Army of the U.S. with duty as an 11B (Light Weapons Infantryman)
- From 9 May 1966 – 5 May 1967 – he served with Echo Troop, 17th Cavalry, 173rd Airborne Brigade as a Scout (11D) in the Republic of Vietnam
- On 8 November 1967 – he was honorably released from active duty and transferred into the U.S. Army Reserve (USAR)
- On 8 November 1971 (Letter Orders Number 10-1252473) he was honorably discharged from the USAR

BOARD DISCUSSION:

After reviewing the application and all supporting documents, the Board determined relief was not warranted. The applicant's contentions, the military record, and regulatory guidance were carefully considered. Based upon the lack of orders or other documentation within the official record or provided by the applicant to show the applicant qualified and/or was previously awarded the requested awards, the Board concluded there was insufficient evidence of an error or injustice warranting a change to the applicant's military record.

BOARD VOTE:

Mbr 1      Mbr 2      Mbr 3

|      |      |      |                      |
|------|------|------|----------------------|
| :    | :    | :    | 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 correction of the records of the individual concerned.

//SIGNED//

X

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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. Department of the Army Pamphlet 672-3 (Unit Citation and Campaign Participation Credit Register) was published to provide personnel officers with assistance in determining or establishing the eligibility of individual members for campaign participation credit, assault landing credit, and unit citation badges awarded during the Vietnam Conflict, the Grenada Operation, and the period of service subsequent to the Vietnam Conflict up to the present time. During these conflicts, Echo Troop, 17th Cavalry was awarded the Valorous Unit Award, Meritorious Unit Commendation, the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross (w/ palm device) and the Republic of Vietnam Civil Actions Honor Medal. Elements of Echo Troop (1st Platoon) were also awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for service performed between 7 October 1966 – 4 December 1966 (Department of the Army General Orders Number 32). Eligible members must provide evidence of participation in Assault Landing.
3. U.S. Army Vietnam Regulation 672-1 (Decorations and Awards) provided guidelines for award of the Air Medal. It stated passenger personnel who did not participate in an air assault were not eligible for the award based upon sustained operations. It defined terms and provided guidelines for the award based upon the number and types of missions or hours. Twenty-five Category I missions (air assault and equally dangerous missions) and accrual of a minimum of 25 hours of flight time while engaged in Category I missions was the standard established for which sustained operations were

deemed worthy of recognition by an award of the Air Medal. However, the regulation was clear that these guidelines were considered only a departure point.

a. Combat missions were divided into three categories. A category I mission was defined as a mission performed in an assault role in which a hostile force was engaged and was characterized by delivery of ordnance against the hostile force or delivery of friendly troops or supplies into the immediate combat operations area. A category II mission was characterized by support rendered a friendly force immediately before, during, or immediately following a combat operation. A category III mission was characterized by support of friendly forces not connected with an immediate combat operation, but which must have been accomplished at altitudes which made the aircraft at times vulnerable to small arms fire or under hazardous weather or terrain conditions.

b. To be recommended for award of the Air Medal, an individual must have completed a minimum of 25 category I missions, 50 category II missions, or 100 category III missions. Since various types of missions would have been completed in accumulating flight time toward award of an Air Medal for sustained operations, different computations would have had to be made to combine category I, II, and III flight times and adjust it to a common denominator.

4. Army Regulation (AR) 600-8-22 (Military Awards), prescribes Department of the Army (DA) policy, criteria, and procedures for individual and unit military awards and foreign decorations and badges. Paragraph 3-18 (Air Medal), the Air Medal was established by EO 9158, 11 May 1942, as amended by EO 9242, 11 September 1942. The Air Medal is awarded to any person who, while serving in any capacity in or with the Armed Forces of the United States, has distinguished themselves by meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight. Awards may be made to recognize single acts of valor, merit, or heroism or for meritorious service as described below:

(1) Awards may be made for acts of heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy or while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party, which are of a lesser degree than required for award of the Distinguished Flying Cross.

(2) Awards may be made for a single act of meritorious achievement, involving superior airmanship, which are of a lesser degree than required for award of the Distinguished Flying Cross, but nevertheless were accomplished with distinction beyond that normally expected.

(3) Awards for meritorious service may be made for sustained distinction in the performance of duties involving regular and frequent participation in aerial flight for a period of at least 6 consecutive months.

Award of the Air Medal is primarily intended to recognize those personnel who are on current crewmember or non-crewmember flying status which requires them to participate in aerial flight on a regular and frequent basis in the performance of their primary duties. However, it may also be awarded to certain other individuals whose combat duties require regular and frequent flying in other than a passenger status or individuals who perform a particularly noteworthy act while performing the function of a crewmember, but who are not on flying status.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//