

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 21 March 2025

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240009525

APPLICANT REQUESTS: award of the following:

- Bronze Star Medal
- Army Commendation Medal
- Air Medals

APPLICANT'S SUPPORTING DOCUMENT(S) CONSIDERED BY THE BOARD:
DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record), 2 May 2024

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 missing awards, the Bronze Star Medal, Army Commendation Medal, and Air Medals. On his DD Form 149, he annotates post-traumatic stress disorder is related to this request.

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

- a. He was inducted into the Army of the United States on 5 January 1967.
- b. He served in Vietnam from 6 December 1967 to 27 November 1968 with the 1st Battalion 506th Infantry.
- c. General Orders Number 271, dated 5 April 1968, awarded the applicant the Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device for his heroism in ground combat in the Republic of Vietnam on 18 December 1967.
- d. General Orders Number 696, dated 22 January 1969, awarded the applicant the Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device (first oak leaf cluster) for his heroism in the Republic of Vietnam on 5 August 1968.

e. The available record is void of orders for additional award of the Air Medal.

f. The applicant was honorably released from active duty and transferred to the United States Army Reserve Control Group on 1 December 1968. His DD Form 214 (Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge) shows he served 1 year, 10 months, and 27 days of active service. He was awarded or authorized the following decorations, medals, badges, commendation, citations, and campaign ribbons:

- National Defense Service Medal
- Vietnam Service Medal
- Army Commendation Medal
- Air Medal
- Combat Medical Badge
- Parachutist Badge
- Vietnam Campaign Medal
- Bronze Star Medal

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. The Board found that the applicant's record shows General Orders Number 271, dated 5 April 1968, which awarded the applicant the Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device for his heroism in ground combat in the Republic of Vietnam on 18 December 1967, and General Orders Number 696, dated 22 January 1969, which awarded the applicant the Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device (first oak leaf cluster) for his heroism in the Republic of Vietnam on 5 August 1968. However, the Board did not find any orders to show the applicant was authorized or issued any additional Air Medals, nor did the applicant provide any documentation to show he was awarded any additional Air Medals other than the one already listed on his DD Form 214. In addition, the Board determined the applicant met the criteria to show he was authorized an Army Good Conduct Medal based on his service. As a result, the Board determined partial relief was granted.

BOARD VOTE:

<u>Mbr 1</u>	<u>Mbr 2</u>	<u>Mbr 3</u>	
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:	:	:	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 1 December 1968 to:

- Delete the following awards:
 - Bronze Star Medal
 - Army Commendation Medal
- Add the following awards:
 - Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device
 - Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device One Oak Leaf Cluster
 - Army Good Conduct Medal (1st Award)

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 adding any additional Air Medals.

//SIGNED//

X

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:

a. The Bronze Star Medal is awarded in time of war for heroism and for meritorious achievement or service, not involving participation in aerial flight, 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. 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 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 these medals.

c. The Army Commendation Medal may be awarded to any member of the Armed Forces of the United States who, while serving 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.

d. An oak leaf cluster is awarded to denote the second and succeeding awards of certain decorations, among which is the (appropriate decoration).

e. The Air Medal is awarded in time of war for heroism and for meritorious achievement or service while participating in aerial flight. This award is primarily intended for personnel on flying status, but may also be awarded to those personnel whose combat duties require them to fly; for example, personnel in the attack elements of units involved in air-land assaults against an armed enemy. As with all personal decorations, formal recommendations, approval through the chain of command, and announcement in orders are required.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//