

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 6 March 2025

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240009564

APPLICANT REQUESTS: request a copy of his DD Form 214 (Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge), for the period ending February 9, 1970, to show:

- Military Occupational Specialty – Combat Engineer (12B)
- Imjin Scouts Certificate

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- Certificate (The Imjin Scout Insignia Award), April 1969
- Photos
- DD Form 214, 9 February 1970

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 requests the addition of his military occupational specialty 12B – Combat Engineer and the Imjin Scouts Certificate be added to his DD Form 214 (Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge).
 - a. He completed Combat Engineer training at Fort Leonardwood, Missouri on 6 June 1968 and received permanent change of station orders to the 2nd Combat Engineers, 2nd Infantry Division, in South Korea. He worked in a Company Orderly Room as a Training Operations Clerk. Within months, he was transferred to the Battalion Operations and worked for Major H. as the Assistant Training/Operations Noncommissioned Officer. He was promoted to Sergeant, but never worked as a company clerk.

b. After Korea, he was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 2nd Artillery at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, and worked as an Operations Assistant Training/Operations Noncommissioned Officer. He makes the request for addition of Combat Engineer MOS on his DD Form 214 because he has Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia and other service-related disabilities. Further he says the 2nd Engineer Battalion was a presumptive unit for Agent Orange.

c. Each time he goes to the Veterans Evaluation Services or a Department of Veterans Affairs evaluation appointment regarding disabilities, he has to explain his military history. He contends he never served as a clerk and spent the majority of his military service as a 12B (Combat Engineer). He would also like to add the certificate for operational missions along the Demilitarized Zone in Korea.

3. The applicant provides copies of his certificates showing participating in an operational mission along the demilitarized zone in Korea and photos.

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

a. He enlisted in the Regular Army on 8 January 1968.

b. His DA Form 20 (Enlisted Qualification Record) shows in Block 22 (Military Occupational Specialties) Personnel Specialist - 71H20.

c. His DA Form 20 (Enlisted Qualification Record) shows in Block 27 (Military Education) Personnel Specialist (71H20) Fort Leonardwood, Missouri for 8 weeks in 1968. It also shows in Block 31 (Foreign Service) from 6 April 1968 through 26 June 1969, (Overseas Assignment) USARPAC-Korea, for 14 months.

d. DA Form 20 (Record of Assignments) in Block 38 shows the applicant worked as a Clerk from 9 April 1968 through 6 February 1970 in various locations.

e. Special Orders Number 158, dated 6 June 1968, assigned him to Company E, 2nd Engineer Battalion as a 12A10 (Pioneer).

f. On 4 October 1968, Special Orders Number 278 awarded the applicant hostile fire pay with an effective date of 1 August 1968.

g. On 28 October 1968, the applicant's military occupational specialty of 12A10 (Pioneer) was withdrawn and he was awarded a primary military occupational specialty of 12C20 (Bridge Crewman).

h. On 9 November 1968, the applicant requested a secondary military occupational

specialty of 71H20 (Personnel Specialist). He indicated he had been taking on the job training for a period of approximately five months.

i. His request for a secondary military occupational specialty was approved and a copy of the approval was placed in his official military personnel file.

j. On 28 February 1969, the applicant was promoted to Specialist (E-4) with an effective date of 14 February 1969. His military occupational specialty was listed as 71H20 (Personnel Specialist).

k. On 9 February 1970, he was honorably discharged from active duty. His DD Form 214 shows he completed 2 years, 1 month and 2 days of active service. It also shows in Block 23a (Specialty Number and Title) 71H20, Personnel Specialist.

6. By regulation, (AR 635-5) the DD Form 214 is a summary of the Soldier's most recent period of continuous active duty. It provides a brief, clear-cut record of all current active, prior active, and prior inactive duty service at the time of release from active duty, retirement, or discharge. The information entered thereon reflects the conditions as they existed at the time of separation.

7. Army Regulation 600-8-22 (Military Awards) states certificates of achievement and letters of commendation or appreciation are appropriate means to recognize departing personnel, periods of faithful service, acts, or achievements that do not meet the standards required for decorations. Commanders authorized to award badges may issue, simultaneously, appropriate certificates of achievement to persons under their command who have qualified for the respective badges. However, they are commemorative in nature, do not take the place of the Permanent Order, and should not be placed in the Army Military Human Resource Record as an authenticating document for award of a badge.

BOARD DISCUSSION:

1. After reviewing the application, all supporting documents, and the evidence found within the military record, the Board found that relief was/was not warranted. The Board carefully considered the applicant's record of service, documents submitted in support of the petition and executed a comprehensive and standard review based on law, policy and regulation. Upon review of the applicant's petition and available military records, the Board noted his contentions that he served primarily as a Combat Engineer during his time in Korea and that the current listing of Personnel Specialist (71H20) does not accurately reflect his duties. Further asserting that the Imjin Scouts Certificate should be added to his DD Form 214 to acknowledge his operational missions along the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) in Korea.

2. The Board determined the applicant was assigned to Company E, 2nd Engineer Battalion as a 12A10 (Pioneer) per Special Orders Number 158, dated 6 June 1968. He later held the MOS of 12C20 (Bridge Crewman) before requesting and being awarded 71H20 (Personnel Specialist) as his primary MOS. His record of assignments indicates he served in clerical roles throughout his active duty, and his DD Form 214 appropriately reflects his MOS at the time of separation in accordance with Army Regulation 635-5, which requires the DD Form 214 to reflect conditions as they existed at the time of discharge. Regarding the Imjin Scouts Certificate, the Board noted that certificates of achievement are commemorative in nature and not authorized for inclusion on the DD Form 214 under current regulatory guidance. While the applicant's participation in DMZ operations is acknowledged and commendable, the certificate does not meet the criteria for formal recognition on the discharge document. Based on the evidence, the Board granted partial relief to amend the applicant's DD Form 214 to show his time as a Combat Engineer (12A10) during his service in Korea.

BOARD VOTE:

Mbr 1 Mbr 2 Mbr 3

:	:	:	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 a recommendation for 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 9 February 1970, to show in Block 23a (Specialty Number and Title) 12A10 - Combat Engineer (Secondary).
2. The Board further determined 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 the applicant's Imjin Scouts Certificate to his DD Form 214.

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.

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 635-5 (Separation Documents) states the DD Form 214 is a summary of the Soldier's most recent period of continuous active duty. It provides a brief, clear-cut record of all current active, prior active, and prior inactive duty service at the time of release from active duty, retirement, or discharge. The information entered thereon reflects the conditions as they existed at the time of separation.
3. Army Regulation 600-8-22 (Military Awards) states certificates of achievement and letters of commendation or appreciation are appropriate means to recognize departing personnel, periods of faithful service, acts, or achievements that do not meet the standards required for decorations. Commanders authorized to award badges may

issue, simultaneously, appropriate certificates of achievement to persons under their command who have qualified for the respective badges. However, they are commemorative in nature, do not take the place of the Permanent Order, and should not be placed in the Army Military Human Resource Record as an authenticating document for award of a badge.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//