

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 11 April 2025

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240009573

APPLICANT REQUESTS: correction of his DD Form 214 (Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge) to show award of the Army Aviator Badge (formerly known as the Aircraft Crewman Badge) and additional Air Medals.

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- DD Form 214, effective 1 July 1968 that shows the applicant was honorably released from active duty and awarded the following:
 - Air Medal (9th Oak Leaf Cluster)
 - Aircraft Crewman Badge
- DD Form 215 (Correction to DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) issued on 19 March 2009 that shows the applicant was awarded the Army Good Conduct Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with 2 bronze service stars, Air Medal with Numeral 24, and Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation
- Photograph with a note that states "shot down and wounded, 14 November 1967 [applicant]"
- General Orders Number 82 dated 17 November 1967 that awarded the applicant the Purple Heart
- DA Form 8-119 (Hospital Arrival Notice) dated 18 December 1967, addressed to the applicant's mother that states he was admitted to the hospital as a patient on 17 December 1967
- 100 plus self-authored letters from the applicant that discuss his time in service and while in the Republic of Vietnam

FACTS:

1. Incorporated herein by reference are military records which were summarized in the previous consideration of the applicant's case by the Army Board for Correction of Military Records (ABCMR) in Docket Number AR20080007687 on 23 September 2008.

2. The applicant states he did not receive several Air Medals for flights after July 1967 and that his DD Form 215 does not show award of the Army Aviator Badge.

3. The applicant's DD Form 214, effective 1 July 1968 shows award of the Aircraft Crewman Badge (now known as the Army Aviator Badge). The Board will not consider correction of the applicant's record to show the Army Aviator Badge. The Board will consider the applicant's request for additional awards of the Air Medal.

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

- On 31 March 1965, he enlisted in the Regular Army and was awarded military occupational specialty 67N (Helicopter Mechanic)
- DA Form 20 (Enlisted Qualification Record) shows he served in Vietnam from 27 March 1966 to 26 December 1967
- On 1 July 1968 he was honorably released from active duty, his DD Form 214 shows he was awarded or authorized:
 - Purple Heart
 - Air Medal (8 Oak Leaf Clusters)
 - Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device 1960
 - Vietnam Service Medal
 - National Defense Service Medal
 - Aircraft Crewman Badge
 - Valorous Unit Award

5. The applicant's record does not contain, nor does the applicant provide any DA Forms 759 (Individual Flight Record and Flight Crew Certificate - Army (Flight Hours)) to support his request for additional awards of the Air Medal.

6. On 23 September 2008, the ABCMR granted partial relief for the applicant's request of the 23rd Oak Leaf Cluster to his Air Medal, that he be awarded any additional Air Medals that he may be authorized, and to correct his record to show he was "put in" for promotion to staff sergeant/E-6 and the Bronze Star Medal. In pertinent part, the Board found sufficient evidence that the applicant's record contained orders that confirm he was awarded the 23rd Oak Leaf Cluster to his Air Medal and amended his record to reflect that fact. However, there is no evidence or indication that he had sufficient assault missions to warrant any additional awards of the Air Medal.

7. On 19 March 2009, the applicant was issued a DD Form 215 that added the following awards:

- Army Good Conduct Medal
- Vietnam Service Medal with two bronze service stars

- Air Medal with Numeral 24
- Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation

BOARD DISCUSSION:

After reviewing the application, all supporting documents, and the evidence found within the military record, the Board found that relief was not warranted. The applicant's contentions, the military record, and regulatory guidance were carefully considered. The Board notes that Regulatory guidance states recommendations for award of the Air Medal for crewmembers or non-crewmembers on flying status would be submitted on USARV Form 157-R. The recommendation for award must also have stated that the individual met the required number of missions and hours for award of the Air Medal. Because the type of missions is not listed, nor does the applicant state how many Air Medals he believes he is authorized. Although the Board found sufficient evidence to show that the applicant's record contained orders that confirm he was awarded the 23rd Oak Leaf Cluster to his Air Medal, his record has already been amended to reflect that fact, when he was issued a DD Form 215 on 19 March 2009. Therefore, the Board determined there no evidence or indication that he had sufficient additional assault missions to warrant any additional awards of the Air Medal and denied his request.

2. The Board also noted that the applicant's DD Form 214, effective 1 July 1968 already shows the award of the Aircraft Crewman Badge (now known as the Army Aviator Badge). Therefore, there is nothing to correct.

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.

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.

REFERENCE

U.S. Army Vietnam Regulation 672-1 (Decorations and Awards) provided, in pertinent part, guidelines for award of the Air Medal. It established that 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 time and adjust it to a common denominator.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//