

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 11 March 2025

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240009776

APPLICANT REQUESTS: to be awarded and or authorized the following:

- Combat Infantryman Badge
- Combat Medical Badge
- Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- Self-authored letter
- DD Form 214 (Armed Forces of the U.S. Report of Transfer or Discharge)
- DA Form 20 (Enlisted Qualification Record)

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 in pertinent part that he was assigned to the 51st Ambulance Company, Republic of Vietnam in December 1967. While assigned, the applicant routinely participated in convoy missions and endured frequent attacks by the opposition. The applicant contests that during one of the convoy missions an attack occurred resulting in numerous casualties. He performed his duties as a medic and was personally wounded in action which resulted in him being awarded the Purple Heart. During the convoy missions, the applicant was required to return fire and attend to the wounded. While serving in the Republic of Vietnam, the applicant was attached to the 173rd Airborne Brigade. He recalls participating in a mission which resulted in three casualties requiring his care, one of which was medically evacuated. The applicant adds that he maintained the 11B (Light Infantryman), 91A (Medical Corpsman) and 91B (Medical Specialist) Military Occupational Specialties (MOS). He performed his duties under fire, returned fire and treated casualties in the process.

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

a. On 9 December 1966, the applicant enlisted in the U.S. Army for 3 years with duty as an 11B.

b. On or about 31 July 1967, the applicant attended reclassification training subsequently resulting in him being awarded the 91A MOS on or about 6 October 1967.

c. On or about 31 October 1967, the applicant proceeded to the Republic of Vietnam and was further assigned to the 51st Medical Company (Ambulance) as an Ambulance Orderly.

d. On or about 30 March 1968, the applicant was reassigned to the 566th Medical Company (Ambulance) and attached to the 22nd Surgical Hospital.

e. On or about 27 October 1968, the applicant departed the Republic of Vietnam and was subsequently reassigned to Fitzsimons General Hospital (Medical Company) in Denver, CO on or about 7 December 1968.

f. On 8 December 1969, the applicant was honorably released from active duty and transferred into the U.S. Army Reserve Control Group (Reinforcement). DD Form 214, item 24 (Decorations, Medals, Badges, Commendations, Citations and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized) reflects the following:

- National Defense Service Medal
- Vietnam Service Medal
- Vietnam Campaign Medal (w/ 1960 Device)
- Purple Heart
- (2) Overseas Bars
- Marksman Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-14)
- Expert Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-16)

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BOARD DISCUSSION:

After reviewing the application and all supporting documents, the Board determined partial relief was warranted. The applicant's contentions, the military record, and regulatory guidance were carefully considered. Based upon the available documentation, the Board made the following findings and recommendations related to the requested relief:

- Combat Infantryman Badge: DENY, based upon the applicant not holding an 11B MOS while serving in a combat environment.
- Combat Medical Badge: GRANT, based upon the applicant holding the MOS 91A, while serving in Vietnam. Additionally, based upon the applicant previously being awarded a Purple Heart, the Board concluded the applicant served as a medic in a combat environment.
- Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation: Not voted by the board, based upon the administrative correction annotated in administrative notes below.

BOARD VOTE:

<u>Mbr 1</u>	<u>Mbr 2</u>	<u>Mbr 3</u>	
:	:	:	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 Army records of the individual concerned be corrected by amending the applicant's DD Form 214 by awarding and adding the Combat Medical Badge.
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 Combat Infantryman Badge.
3. Prior to closing the case, the Board noted the administrative notes below and recommended that change also be completed to more accurately reflect the military service of the applicant.

//SIGNED//

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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.

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE(S):

1. Reference the enclosed request for correction of military records from the subject individual to correct his DD Form 214 for the period ending December 8, 1969, by adding the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation.
2. A review of the records listed below (enclosed) is sufficient to substantiate correction of the DD Form 214 without action by the Board.
 - DD Form 214
 - Army Regulation 600-8-22 (Military Awards)
 - Department of the Army General Orders Number 8, dated 1974
3. Please correct the applicant's DD Form 214 by adding the award shown in paragraph 1 above. Provide the applicant a copy of the correction, and as applicable the medal. Please ensure that the correction is recorded in the applicant's official military personnel record.

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 (AR) 600-8-22 (Military Awards) provides the following:

a. Paragraph 8-6 (Combat Infantryman Badge) provides that the Combat Infantryman Badge was established by the War Department on 27 October 1943. The Combat Infantryman Badge was designed to enhance morale and the prestige of the "Queen of Battle." The badge was intended as an inducement for individuals to join the infantry while serving as a morale booster for infantrymen serving in every theater. For award of the Combat Infantryman Badge, a Soldier must meet the following three requirements:

- be an infantry Soldier satisfactorily performing infantry duties
- be assigned to an infantry unit during such time as the unit is engaged in active ground combat; a recipient must be personally present and under hostile fire while serving in an assigned infantry primary duty in a unit actively engaged in ground combat with the enemy; personnel with other than an infantry MOS are not eligible, regardless of the circumstances
- actively participate in such ground combat

Award of the Combat Infantryman Badge is not automatic and will not be awarded solely based on award of the Purple Heart.

b. Paragraph 8-7 (Combat Medical Badge) provides that the Combat Medical Badge was created by the War Department on 1 March 1945. It could be awarded to officers, warrant officers, and enlisted Soldiers of the U.S. Army Medical Department (AMEDD) assigned or attached to the medical detachment of infantry regiments, infantry battalions, and elements thereof designated as infantry in tables of organization. The Combat Medical Badge was designed to provide recognition to the field medic who accompanies the infantryman into battle and shares experiences unique to the infantry in combat. There was never any intention to award the Combat Medical Badge to all medical personnel who serve in a combat zone or imminent danger area. To be eligible for the Combat Medical Badge, a Soldier must meet the following requirements:

- be a member of the AMEDD (COL/O-6 and below)
- assigned or attached by appropriate orders to an infantry unit of either a brigade, regiment, or smaller size or to a medical unit of company or smaller

size, organic to an infantry unit of brigade or smaller size, during any period the infantry unit is engaged in actual ground combat on or after 6 December 1941.

For Service in the Republic of Vietnam - Subsequent to 1 March 1961, a Soldier must have been assigned to a Vietnamese unit engaged in actual ground combat or as a member of a U.S. Army infantry unit of brigade or smaller size, including Special Forces detachments, serving with a Republic of Vietnam unit engaged in actual ground combat. The Republic of Vietnam unit must have been of regimental size or smaller and either an infantry, ranger, infantry-type unit of the civil guard, infantry-type unit of the self-defense corps, or of the irregular forces. The Soldier must have been personally present and under hostile fire while assigned as specified.

c. The Combat Medical Badge may be awarded as follows:

(1) The sole criterion that qualifies medical personnel for award of the Combat Medical Badge is to be assigned or attached to an infantry, combat arms, or combat aviation unit engaged in active ground combat.

(2) Medical personnel, other than those medics organic to infantry units, may qualify only if they serve as medical personnel accompanying infantry, combat arms, or combat aviation units during combat operations. Conceivably, this could occur if a unit lost all its medics and, as a temporary or permanent measure, medical personnel were attached to an infantry, combat arms, or combat aviation unit but remained assigned to a hospital or other non-infantry unit.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//