

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 25 June 2025

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240010132

APPLICANT REQUESTS: correction of his DD Form 214 (Report of Separation from Active Duty) to show the Joint Service Commendation Medal.

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- Joint Service Commendation Medal Certificate
- DD Form 214

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 his DD Form 214 does not list the Joint Service Commendation Medal, which he received by mail in early 1977, following his separation from active duty.
3. A review of the SM's service record shows:
 - a. He enlisted into the Regular Army on 26 February 1973. He was trained in and held military occupational specialty 95B, Military Policeman.
 - b. DA Form 2-1 (Personnel Qualification Record) showing in block 9 (Awards, Decorations, and Campaigns), the National Defense Service Medal, Sharpshooter Marksmanship Qualification Badge Rifle (M-16), Sharpshooter Grenade Qualification Badge and Good Conduct Medal 1st award.
 - c. He received a Letter of Commendation, dated 23 July 1975, for supporting the Task Force New Arrivals Refugee Program at Fort Chafee, Arkansas.

d. Special Orders Number 115, dated 8 June 1976 relieved the applicant from active duty and transferred him into the United States Army Reserve effective 24 June 1976.

e. On 24 June 1976, he was discharged from active duty with an honorable characterization of service. His DD Form 214 shows he completed 3 years and no of lost time. It also shows he was awarded or authorized:

- National Defense Service Medal
- Army Good Conduct Medal
- Sharpshooter Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-16)
- Sharpshooter Hand Grenade Qualification Badge

BOARD DISCUSSION:

After reviewing the application, all supporting documents, and the evidence found within the military record, the Board found that relief was 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. The Board was convinced by a preponderance of the evidence, specifically the Joint Service Commendation Medal Certificate provided by the applicant for meritorious achievement in support of the Indochina Refugee Relief Program given on 27 August 1976. The Board concluded the Joint Service Commendation Medal was awarded to the applicant and will be added to his DD Form 214.

BOARD VOTE:

Mbr 1 Mbr 2 Mbr 3

XXX	XXX	XXX	GRANT FULL RELIEF
:	:	:	GRANT PARTIAL RELIEF
:	:	:	GRANT FORMAL HEARING
:	:	:	DENY APPLICATION

BOARD DETERMINATION/RECOMMENDATION:

The Board determined the evidence presented is sufficient to warrant a recommendation for relief. As a result, the Board recommends that all Department of Army records of the individual concerned be corrected by amending his DD Form 214, for the period ending 24 June 1976 to show award of the Joint Service Commendation Medal.

//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) prescribes Army policy, criteria, and administrative instructions concerning individual and unit military awards. The Joint Service Commendation Medal was authorized by the Secretary of Defense on 25 June 1963. It is awarded in the name of the Secretary of Defense to members of the Armed Forces of the United States who, while assigned to a joint activity after 1 January 1963, distinguished themselves by meritorious achievement or service. In accordance with Deputy Secretary of Defense Memorandum, "Combat Distinguishing Device for the Joint Service Commendation Medal," dated 29 November 1965, the "V" Device was authorized by wear for all services for acts or service involving direct participation in combat operations on or after 25 June 1963.
3. Army Regulation 635-5 (Separation Documents), then in effect, prescribed the separation documents prepared for Soldiers upon retirement, discharge, or release from active military service or control of the Army. In established standardized policy for the preparation of the DD Form 214. In pertinent part, it stated the DD Form 214 is a

synopsis of the Soldier's most recent period of continuous active service. It provides a brief, clear-cut record of active Army service at the time of release from active duty, retirement, or discharge. It is important that information entered on the form should be complete and accurate. Chapter 2 of Army Regulation 635-5 contains guidance on the preparation of the DD Form 214.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//