

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 13 May 2025

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240010809

APPLICANT REQUESTS: correction of his DD Form 214 (Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge), effective 2 April 1972 to show award of the Army Commendation Medal and expert marksmanship qualification badges for the rifle, pistol, and flamethrower.

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- General Orders Number 171 dated 31 March 1972 that awards the applicant the Army Commendation Medal for meritorious service from July 1971 through March 1972

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 believes he has earned every one of his awards with his dedicated Vietnam service. He would like his discharge document to reflect his accomplishments, so he has something to leave to his family at the time of his passing.
3. A review of the applicant's service record confirms awards were omitted from his DD Form 214. The Army Commendation Medal will be added to his DD Form 214 as an administrative correction and will not be considered by the Board. Additionally, a DD Form 215 (Correction to DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) was issued adding the Expert Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar. The Board will consider his request for correction of his DD Form 214 to show award of expert marksmanship qualification badges for the pistol and flamethrower.
4. A review of the applicant's service record shows:
 - He was inducted into the Army of the United States on 18 January 1971

- DA Form 20 (Enlisted Qualification Record) shows in item 41 (Awards and Decorations) he was awarded:
 - National Defense Service Medal
 - Vietnam Service Medal
 - Expert Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-16)
- On 2 April 1972 he was honorably transferred to the U.S. Army Reserve Control Group (Annual Training) and his DD Form 214 shows he was awarded:
 - National Defense Service Medal
 - Vietnam Service Medal
 - Vietnam Campaign Medal
- On 3 April 2015 a DD Form 215 was issued and amended his DD Form 214, effective 2 April 1972 by:
 - Deleting:
 - Vietnam Service Medal
 - Vietnam Campaign Medal
 - Adding:
 - Vietnam Service Medal with 3 bronze service stars
 - Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device 1960
 - Expert Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar
 - Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation

5. The applicant does not provide, nor does his record contain evidence of marksmanship qualification of a pistol or flamethrower.

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 and the administrative notes below from the analyst of record, the Board concluded that adding the ARCOM to the applicant's DD Form 214 was warranted. However, based upon the applicant's military service record failing to contain marksmanship qualification evidence for a pistol and/or flamethrower, the Board concluded there was insufficient evidence to add those decorations/awards to the applicant's DD Form 214.

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 Army records of the individual concerned be corrected by amending the applicant's DD Form 214 by awarding and adding the Army Commendation Medal.
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 a marksmanship qualification badge for a pistol and/or flamethrower.

//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.

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES:

Reference the enclosed request for correction of military records, correct the applicant's DD Form 214, for the period ending 2 April 1972 by adding the following awards in item 24 (Decorations, Medals, Badges, Commendations, Citations and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized): Army Commendation Medal.

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) 672-5-1 (Awards), in effect at the time, prescribes Department of the Army (DA) policy, criteria, and administrative instructions concerning individual military awards. It states a basic marksmanship qualification badge is awarded to indicate the degree in which an individual, military or civilian, has qualified in a prescribed record course and an appropriate bar is furnished to denote each weapon with which he qualified. Each bar will be attached to the basic badge which indicates the qualification last attained with the respective weapon. Basic qualification badges are of three classes: expert, sharpshooter, and marksman.
3. AR 635-5 (Separation Documents) in effect at the time states all available records will be used when preparing the DD Form 214 to include DA Form 20. For item 24; enter from DA Form 20 all decorations, service medals, campaign credits, and badges awarded or authorized.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//