

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 16 July 2025

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240010901

APPLICANT REQUESTS: correction of his DD Form 214 (Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge) to show the following awards:

- Purple Heart
- Combat Infantryman Badge

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- VA Form 20-0995 (Decision Review Request: Supplemental Claim)
- Army Review Board Agency, Case Management Division (CMD) Letter
- DD Form 214, for the period ending 12 November 1969

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 was combat wounded detonating a friendly round booby trapped by the enemy. He suffered shrapnel wounds to his right elbow. He served as an infantryman in an infantry unit and was awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB). However, it is not documented on his DD Form 214.
3. The applicant a letter from CMD dated 7 February 2018 directing him to the U.S. Army Human Resource Command to request award of the CIB
4. A review of the applicant's service record shows:
 - a. The applicant's record is void of his DD Form 47 (Record of Induction). The DD Form 214 shows he was inducted in the Army of the United States on 13 November 1967.

b. His DA Form 2-1(Personnel Qualification Record – Part II) does not list in Item 9 (Awards, Decorations and Campaigns), award of CIB or PH. Additionally, the unit to which he was assigned in Vietnam is not listed.

c. On 12 November 1969, he was honorably released from active duty. The DD Form 214 shows he completed 2 years of active service. Block His specialty number at the time of his release was 11B20 (Light Weapons Infantryman) with his last duty assignment in Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 10th Infantry. It also shows he was awarded or authorized the:

- National Defense Service Medal
- Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device 60
- Republic of Vietnam Service Medal with one bronze service star
- Army Commendation Medal
- Bronze Star Medal with “V” Device
- Vietnam Unit Citation

5. Nothing in several typical sources show he was wounded as a result of hostile action or that he was awarded the Purple Heart:

(1) His name is not shown on the Vietnam casualty listing. This is a listing of Vietnam era casualties commonly used to verify entitlement to award of the Purple Heart.

(2) His available personnel records do not contain an official Army message or a Western Union telegram notifying his next of kin of an injury or wound sustained in action. This was generally the proper notification procedure for injuries at the time

6. A review of the Awards and Decorations Computer-Assisted Retrieval System (ADCARS), an index of general orders (and in some instances special orders) issued during the Vietnam era between 1965 and 1973 maintained by the Military Awards Branch of the U.S. Army Human Resources Command, failed to reveal any orders for the CIB or PH pertaining to the applicant.

BOARD DISCUSSION:

1. After reviewing the application, all supporting documents, and the evidence found within the military record, the Board found that partial 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. Upon review of the applicant's petition and the available military records, the Board determined that the evidence of record does not support the applicant's contention for award of the Purple Heart or the Combat Infantryman Badge in accordance with the governing regulation. A secondary review of the human resources systems of record likewise failed to identify any orders authorizing either award. Accordingly, the Board denied relief.

2. Prior to closing, the Board noted the applicant's records was void of any disciplinary action that would preclude hm from being awarded the Army Good Conduct Medal (First Award).

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 that the evidence presented was 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, ending on 12 November 1969 to show:

- awarding him the Army Good Conduct Medal (First Award) for the qualifying period 13 November 1967 to 12 November 1969
- adding the Army Good Conduct Medal (First Award) to his DD Form 214

2. The Board further determined that 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 awarding the Purple Heart and Combat Infantryman Badge.

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. U.S. Army Vietnam (USARV) Regulation 672-5-1 (Decorations and Awards), in effect at the time, prescribed policies, responsibilities, and criteria for awards to insure prompt and proper recognition of individuals. The regulation states, in part:

a. The Purple Heart may be awarded to U.S. personnel who are wounded or killed in action as a direct result of enemy action. A wound for which the award is made must

have required treatment by a medical officer and records of medical treatment for wounds or injuries received must have been made a matter of official record.

b. Authority to award the Purple Heart was delegated to hospital commanders. Further, it directed that all personnel treated and released within 24 hours would be awarded the Purple Heart by the organization to which the individual was assigned. Personnel requiring hospitalization more than 24 hours or evacuation from Vietnam would be awarded the Purple Heart directly by the hospital commander rendering treatment

3. Army Regulation 600-8-22 (Military Awards) states the Combat Infantryman Badge is awarded to infantry officers and to enlisted and warrant officer persons who have an infantry military occupational specialty (MOS). They must have served in active ground combat while assigned or attached to an infantry unit of brigade, regimental or smaller size. Additionally, Appendix V of U.S. Army Vietnam (USARV) Regulation 672-1 states that during the Vietnam era the Combat Infantryman Badge was awarded only to enlisted individuals who held and served in MOS 11B, 11C, 11D, 11F, 11G, or 11H.

4. Army Regulation 635-5 (Separation Documents) prescribed the separation documents that would be furnished each individual who was separated from the Army including Active-Duty Training personnel and established standardized procedures for the preparation and distribution of these documents. All available records would be used as a basis for the preparation of the DD Form 214, including DA Form 20. In item 24, enter from section 9, all decorations, service medals, campaign credits, and badges awarded or authorized, omitting authorities cited therein.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//