

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 18 July 2025

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240010926

APPLICANT REQUESTS: correction of his DD Form 214 (Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge) for the period ending 25 April 1969 to show award of the Purple Heart.

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- Western Union Telegram
- Applicant Statement
- Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Letter

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 his record should reflect award of a Purple Heart for injuries sustained in combat during his service in Vietnam. Further, he feels he should be awarded a Combat Infantryman Badge for engaging in combat action against the enemy. He believes his unit differentiated between enlistees and draftees. He was discriminated against since his service number began with US versus RA indicating his draft status. According to the Western Union telegraph received by his parents, the incident occurred on 9 July 1968. While the platoon was advancing on a suspected enemy location, their track was hit by an RPG. He ruptured both eardrums from the blast concussion of the RPG. While waiting for the medivac helicopters to arrive, another blast occurred. He received shrapnel in his chest and right thigh and temporary loss of his sight.
3. The applicant provides a Western Union telegraph dated 20 July 1968 which states the applicant was wounded in Vietnam as a result of hostile action. He received metal

fragment wounds to the stomach and the left side of his chest. He was treated and hospitalized in Vietnam.

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

a. He was inducted into the Army of the United States on 14 August 1967. He was trained in and held military occupational specialty 11B, Infantryman.

b. His DA Form 20 (Enlisted Qualification Record) shows:

- Light Weapons Infantryman (11B) military occupational specialty (MOS)
- service in Vietnam from 26 June 1968 through 14 July 1968
- assigned to H Troop, 7th Cavalry, 198th Infantry Brigade
- all excellence and conduct and efficiency ratings
- item 40 (Wounds): no entry
- item 41 (Awards and Decorations): National Defense Service Medal, Expert Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-14), Vietnam Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device 1960

c. He was honorably released from active duty on 25 April 1969. His DD Form 214 shows he completed 1 year, 8 months and 11 days of active service. It also shows he was awarded or authorized:

- National Defense Service Medal
- Vietnam Service Medal
- Vietnam Campaign Medal
- Expert Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-14)
- Expert Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-16)

d. His records are void of any disciplinary actions or a commander's disqualification for award of the Army Good Conduct Medal (AGCM) and/or orders for the AGCM.

5. A review of the applicant's service record confirms he is eligible for awards and campaign credits that are not recorded on his DD Form 214. The entries will be added to his DD Form 214 as administrative corrections and will not be considered by the Board.

6. His name is listed on the Vietnam casualty roster, a compilation of most of those who were wounded in Vietnam, which is used to verify eligibility for the Purple Heart.

BOARD DISCUSSION:

After reviewing the application and all supporting documents, the Board determined 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. Based upon the provided Western Union message showing the applicant was injured as a result of hostile action while serving in Vietnam, the Board concluded there was sufficient evidence to award the applicant the Purple Heart for injuries incurred on 19 July 1968, Additionally, based upon the available documentation concerning the Purple Heart and the applicant's DD Form 214 showing he held the MOS of 11B, the Board concluded there was sufficient evidence to award the Combat Infantryman Badge.

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:

1. 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 the applicant's DD Form 214 by awarding and adding the Combat Infantryman Badge and the Purple Heart for injuries incurred on 19 July 1968, while serving in Vietnam.
2. Prior to closing the case, the Board noted the administrative notes below from the analyst of record and recommended those changes also be completed to more accurately reflect the military service of the applicant.

//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 NOTE(S):

A review of the applicant's service records show he is authorized additional awards not annotated on his DD Form 214 for the service period ending 25 April 1969. As a result, correct his DD Form 214 to show:

- Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation
- three bronze service stars with his previously awarded Vietnam Service Medal

REFERENCES:

1. Army Regulation 600-8-22 (Military Awards) provides Army policy, criteria, and administrative instructions concerning individual military decorations.

a. A bronze service star is authorized to denote participation in each designated campaign.

b. The Purple Heart is awarded in the name of the President of the United States to any member of an Armed Force or any civilian national of the United States who, while serving under competent authority in any capacity with one of the U.S. Armed Services

after 5 April 1917, has been wounded or killed, or who has died or may hereafter die after, being wounded:

- In any action against an enemy of the United States
- In any action with an opposing armed force of a foreign country in which the Armed Forces of the U.S. are or have been engaged
- While serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the U.S. is not a belligerent party.
- As the result of an act of any such enemy of opposing Armed Forces
- As the result of an act of any hostile foreign force

c. 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.

d. The Army Good Conduct Medal is awarded to individuals who distinguish themselves by their conduct, efficiency, and fidelity. Although there is no automatic entitlement to the Army Good Conduct Medal, disqualification must be justified. Any one of the following periods of continuous enlisted active Federal military service qualifies for award:

- Each 3 years completed on or after 27 August 1940
- For first award only, 1 year served entirely during the period 7 December 1941 to 2 March 1946
- For first award only, upon termination of service on or after 27 June 1950 of less than 3 years but more than 1 year
- For first award only, upon termination of service, on or after 27 June 1950, of less than 1 year when final separation was by reason of physical disability incurred in line of duty
- For first award only, for those individuals who died before completing 1 year of active Federal service if the death occurred in the line of duty

2. The Purple Heart was established by General George Washington at Newburgh, NY on 7 August 1782 during the Revolutionary War. It was reestablished by the President of the United States per War Department General Orders Number 3 in 1932. It was awarded in the name of the President of the United States to any member of the Armed Forces or any civilian national of the United States who, while serving under competent authority in any capacity with one of the U.S. Armed Services after 5 April 1917, died or

sustained wounds as a result of hostile action. Effective 19 May 1998, award of the Purple Heart is limited to members of the Armed Forces of the United States.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//