

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 13 May 2025

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240010933

APPLICANT REQUESTS: correction of his DD Form 214 (Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge), effective 9 September 1969 to show award of the Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device and the Air Medal.

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- General Orders Number 2226 dated 24 June 1969 that awards the applicant the Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device for heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 29 March 1969
- Citation and certificate of the Air Medal for participating in more than 25 aerial missions over hostile territory in support of operations against communist aggression from 3 May 1969 to 18 June 1969
- DD Form 214 for the period of 18 October 1967 through 9 September 1969, that shows in pertinent part, he was awarded the following:
 - National Defense Service Medal
 - Vietnam Service Medal
 - Vietnam Campaign Medal

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 DD Form 214 does not reflect the award of the Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device and Air Medals he received
- he would like his DD Form 214 to accurately reflect his military accomplishments

3. A review of the applicant's service record confirms awards were omitted from his DD Form 214. The following awards will be added to his DD Form 214 as an administrative correction and will not be considered by the Board:

- Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device
- Sharpshooter Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-14)
- Expert Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-16)

The Board will consider his request for correction of his DD Form 214 to show award of the Air Medal.

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

- He was inducted into the Army of the United States on 18 October 1967
- He served in Vietnam from 19 September 1968 to 9 September 1969
- His DA Form 20 (Enlisted Qualification Record) shows, in pertinent part:
 - Item 22 (Military Occupational Specialties):
 - 67G20 – U-8/U-21 Airplane Repairman
 - 67H20 – OV-1 Airplane Repairman
 - Item 41 (Awards and Decorations):
 - National Defense Service Medal
 - Vietnam Service Medal
- Special Orders Number 322 dated 28 November 1967 ordered award of the Sharpshooter Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-14)
- Special Orders Number 169 dated 2 August 1968 ordered award of the Expert Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-16)
- General Orders Number 2226 dated 24 July 1969 awarded the applicant the Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device for heroism in connection with military operations against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam on 29 March 1969
- DD Form 214 for the period of 18 October 1967 through 9 September 1969, that shows in pertinent part, he was awarded the following:
 - National Defense Service Medal
 - Vietnam Service Medal
 - Vietnam Campaign Medal

BOARD DISCUSSION:

1. After reviewing the application and all supporting documents, the Board determined 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:

Army Commendation Medal with "V" Device: GRANT, based upon the provided award orders from the applicant showing the applicant was previously award the ARCOM w/ V device and it is not properly annotated on his DD Form 214.

Air Medal: GRANT, based upon the provided award certificate, the Board concluded there was sufficient evidence showing the applicant was previously awarded the Air Medal and it is not properly annotated on his DD Form 214.

2. In addition to the above requested relief, based upon the efficiency notes annotated on the applicant's DA Form 20, the Board recommended awarding and adding the Army Good Conduct Medal to the applicant's DD Form 214 for service from 18 October 1967 to 9 September 1969.

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 Army Good Conduct Medal
- adding the ARCOM w/ "V" device
- adding the Air Medal

2. Prior to closing the case, the Board noted the administrative notes below 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):

1. Reference the enclosed request for correction of military records, correct the applicant's DD Form 214, for the period ending 9 September 1969 by adding the following awards in item 24 (Decorations, Medals, Badges, Commendations, Citations and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized):

- Sharpshooter Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-14)
- Expert Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-16)

2. The following documents are sufficient to justify correction of the DD Form 214 without action by the Board:

- Special Orders Number 169 dated 2 August 1968
- General Orders Number 2226 dated 24 July 1969

3. Correct the applicant's DD Form 214 to add the awards shown in paragraph 1 above. Provide the applicant with a copy of the corrections, medals, and citations, as

applicable. Please record the corrections 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. U.S. Army Vietnam (USARV) Regulation 672-1 (Decorations and Awards) provided guidelines for award of the Air Medal. It stated passenger personnel who did not participate in an air assault were not eligible for the award based upon sustained operations. It defined terms and provided guidelines for the award based upon the number and types of missions or hours. Twenty-five Category I missions (air assault and equally dangerous missions) and accrual of a minimum of 25 hours of flight time while engaged in Category I missions was the standard established for which sustained operations were deemed worthy of recognition by an award of the Air Medal. However, the regulation was clear that these guidelines were considered only a departure point.

a. Combat missions were divided into three categories. A category I mission was defined as a mission performed in an assault role in which a hostile force was engaged and was characterized by delivery of ordnance against the hostile force or delivery of friendly troops or supplies into the immediate combat operations area. A category II mission was characterized by support rendered a friendly force immediately before, during, or immediately following a combat operation. A category III mission was characterized by support of friendly forces not connected with an immediate combat operation, but which must have been accomplished at altitudes which made the aircraft at times vulnerable to small arms fire or under hazardous weather or terrain conditions.

b. To be recommended for award of the Air Medal, an individual must have completed a minimum of 25 category I missions, 50 category II missions, or 100 category III missions. Since various types of missions would have been completed in accumulating flight time toward award of an Air Medal for sustained operations, different computations would have had to be made to combine category I, II, and III flight times and adjust it to a common denominator.

c. Appendix IV required that recommendations for award of the Air Medal for crewmembers or non-crewmembers on flying status would be submitted on USARV Form 157-R. The recommendation for award must also have stated that the individual "met the required number of missions and hours for award of the Air Medal"; that "the individual has not caused, either directly or indirectly, an aircraft abort, late take-off, accident or incident"; and that the "individual's accomplishments and service throughout the period have reflected meritorious performance, with no instance of non-professionalism, mediocrity, or failure to display an aggressive spirit."

3. Army Regulation 635-5 (Separation Documents) in effect at the time states all available records will be used as a basis for the preparation of DD Form 214, including DA Form 20. Item 24; enter from DA Form 20 all decorations, service medals, campaign credits, and badges awarded or authorized.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//