

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 13 June 2025

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240011065

APPLICANT REQUESTS: to be awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB).

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- Headquarters, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne) Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV) Reconnaissance Commando (RECONDO) School certificate dated 7 October 1967, showing he completed the MACV RECONDO school
- DD Form 214 (Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge) period ending on 10 March 1968, which shows he was inducted into the Army of the United States (AUS) on 10 May 1966:
  - Item 23a (Specialty Number and Title) shows 91B20 (Medical Specialist)
  - Item 24 (Decorations, Medals, Badges, Commendations, Citations and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized) shows no entry for the CIB
- DD Form 215 (Correction to DD Form 214) dated 8 February 2011, correcting his social security number
- National Personnel Records Center letter dated 24 February 2011, responding to the applicant's request and providing him with a DD Form 215

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 is requesting to be awarded the CIB for his service with E Company, 52nd Infantry, 1st Cavalry Division in Vietnam from 1967 to 1968

- He earned the CIB for his nine months of service as an infantryman with the long-range reconnaissance patrol unit of the 1st Cavalry in 1967 – 1968
- He recently found out from a fellow unit member that it was possible, and the award of the CIB is long overdue

3. This case contains administrative corrections. The Board should consider the applicant's contentions pertaining to the CIB and awarding him the Army Good Conduct Medal.

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

- On 10 May 1966, the applicant was inducted into the AUS
- DA Form 20 (Enlisted Qualification Record) shows in item:
  - 31 (Foreign Service); he served in Vietnam from 13 November 1966 to 12 March 1968
  - 38 (Record of Assignment); while serving in Vietnam:
    - He was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC), 229th Aviation Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile);
    - HHC, 1st Air Cavalry Division
    - Company E, 52nd Infantry, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile)
    - He received excellent conduct and efficiency ratings
  - 41 (Awards and Decorations); no entry for the CIB
- On 23 June 1966, Special Orders Number 173 awarded the applicant the Expert Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-14)
- On 10 March 1968, the applicant was honorably released from active duty and was transferred to the U.S. Army Reserve Control Group (Annual Training); he completed 1 year, 10 months, and 1-day total active service; DD Form 214 shows in item:
  - 23a; 91B20 (Medical Specialist)
  - 24:
    - National Defense Service Medal
    - Vietnam Service Medal
    - Vietnam Campaign Medal
    - 2 overseas service bars
    - Air Medal

- On 19 April 1972, Letter Orders Number 04-1139229 discharged the applicant from the Standby Reserve, effective 9 May 1972

5. The applicant's record did not contain orders awarding him the CIB, nor the Army Good Conduct Medal. It is also void of any disciplinary action which would preclude him from being awarded the Army Good Conduct Medal.

#### 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 review based on law, policy, and regulation.

2. After reviewing the application, all supporting documents, and the evidence found within the military record, the Board found that relief was not warranted for the Combat Infantryman Badge. The applicant's contentions, the military record, and regulatory guidance were carefully considered. The evidence of record shows the applicant held the MOS 91B (Medical Specialist). The applicant served in Vietnam from 8 July 1966 to 8 June 1967 and from 13 November 1966 to 12 March 1968. The Board determined he does not meet the criteria for award of the Combat Infantryman Badge since he did not hold an infantry MOS and/or serve in active ground combat while assigned or attached to an infantry unit of brigade, regimental or smaller size.

3. Upon review of the applicant's petition and available military records, the Board determined relief was warranted for award of the Army Good Conduct Medal. The Board determined there was sufficient evidence, including his service from 10 May 1966 to 10 March 1968, a period of 1 year, 10 months, and 1 day. Based on this, the Board granted relief to correct the applicant's record to reflect award of the Army Good Conduct Medal (First Award).

4. Prior to closing the discussion, the Board reviewed and concurred with the administrative notes below to more accurately depict the military service of the applicant.

BOARD VOTE:

Mbr 1      Mbr 2      Mbr 3

:            :            :            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 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, for the period ending 10 March 1968 by:

- awarding him the Army Good Conduct Medal (First Award) for the qualifying period 10 May 1966 to 10 March 1968
- 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 award of the Combat Infantryman Badge.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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 from the applicant to correct his DD Form 214 for the period ending 10 March 1968, by adding:

- 1960 Device to Vietnam Campaign Medal
- Three bronze service stars to the Vietnam Service Medal
- Expert Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-14)
- Meritorious Unit Commendation
- Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation

2. A review of the records listed below (enclosed) is sufficient to substantiate correction of the DD Form 214 without action by the Board.

- DA Form 20 (Enlisted Qualification Record)
- DD Form 214 ending on 10 March 1968
- Department of the Army General Orders (DAGO) Number 17, 1968
- DAGO Number 59, 1969
- Special Orders Number 173, 23 June 1966
- Army Regulation (AR) 600-8-22 (Military Awards)
- AR 635-5 (Personnel Separation - Separation Documents)
- DA PAM 672-3 (Unit Citation and Campaign Participation Credit Register)

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. AR 600-8-22 (Military Awards), currently in effect, implements a part of the Army Awards Program. It prescribes Department of the Army policy, criteria, and procedures for individual and unit military awards and foreign decorations and badges. In part, paragraph 8-6 (Combat Infantryman Badge) states that to be awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB), a Soldier must (1) be an infantryman satisfactorily performing infantry duties, (2) be assigned to an infantry unit during such time as the unit is engaged in active ground combat, and (3) actively participate in such ground combat. Campaign or battle credit alone is not sufficient for award of the CIB. The CIB is authorized for award during qualifying wars, conflicts, and operations listed in table 8-2 (Qualifying conflicts and periods for award of combat badges), which lists "Republic of

Vietnam Conflict – 2 March 1961 to 28 March 1973 to include qualifying service in Laos  
19 April 1961 to 6 October 1962 – CIB, CMB" [Combat Medical Badge].

3. AR 672-5-1 (Decorations, Awards, and Honors Military Awards), in effect at the time, promulgates Department of the Army policy, criteria, and administrative instructions concerning individual military awards. In pertinent part, it states (a) Awards made by the President, the Secretary of Defense, and the Secretary of the Army will be announced in Department of the Army General Orders or Letter Orders. (b) Awards of decorations and the Good Conduct Medal made by heads of Headquarters, Department of the Army Staff agencies may be announced in Department of the Army Letter Orders or General Orders. (c) Awards of decorations and the Good Conduct Medal made pursuant to delegated authority will be announced in general orders by the commanders authorized to make the awards.

4. AR 672-5-1 (Awards), in effect at the time, states the Army Good Conduct Medal was awarded in recognition of exemplary behavior, efficiency, and fidelity during enlisted service in active Federal Military service. The Army Good Conduct Medal would be awarded for first award only, upon termination of service on or after 27 June 1950, of less than three years but more than 1 year. To qualify for the award, the enlisted person must have all conduct and efficiency ratings as excellent and have no conviction by court-martial during the period.

5. AR 635-5 (Personnel Separations – Separation Documents) prescribes the separation documents that will be furnished each individual who is separated from the Army. The instructions for completing DD Form 214, item 24 state to enter from DA Form 20 all decorations, service medals, campaign credits, and badges awarded or authorized, omitting authorities cited therein.

6. AR 15–185 (Army Board for Correction of Military Records) prescribes the policies and procedures for correction of military records by the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Army Board for Correction of Military Records (ABCMR). In pertinent part, it states that the ABCMR begins its consideration of each case with the presumption of administrative regularity. The applicant has the burden of proving an error or injustice by a preponderance of the evidence. The ABCMR will decide cases based on the evidence of record. The ABCMR is not an investigative agency.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//