

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 13 June 2025

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240011088

APPLICANT REQUESTS: in effect, correction of his DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) to show his deployments to Panama and Saudi Arabia.

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- DD Form 214

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 deployed to Panama in 1994/95 and to Saudi Arabia; however, there is no record of the deployments. He questions whether he should have received any awards or decorations for his service.
3. The applicant enlisted in the Regular Army on 17 August 1994. He served in military occupational specialty 12B (Combat Engineer).
4. On 16 August 1997, he was honorably released from active duty due to the completion of his required active service. The DD Form 214 he was issued does not list any foreign service or that he received any awards and decorations.
5. The Defense Manpower Data Center compiled the Desert Shield/Storm Data Base. The primary Desert Shield/Storm file contains one record for each active duty member who participated in-theater between 2 August 1990 and 31 July 1991. The Desert Shield/Storm Data Base shows the applicant served in Southwest Asia during the period 1 October to 31 December 1995 (a period of 3 months and 2 days).

6. There is no evidence in his Official Military Personnel File, and he provides insufficient evidence to support his contention that he was deployed to Panama in 1994/95.

7. The DD Form 214 is a synopsis of the Soldier's most recent period of continuous active duty. It provides a brief, clear-cut record of active Army service at the time of release from active duty, retirement, or discharge. It is important that information entered on the form should be complete and accurate.

#### 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. The Board found sufficient evidence to show the applicant served in Southwest Asia from 1 October to 31 December 1995. This qualifies the applicant for award of the Southwest Asia Service Medal. Additionally, he is authorized correction of his DD Form 214 to show this deployment and period of foreign service.

3. Upon review of the applicant's petition and available military records, the Board determined the applicant's successful completion of initial entry training qualifies him for award of the Army Service Ribbon. Additionally, the applicant's honorable active service from 17 August 1994 to 16 August 1997 qualifies him for award of the National Defense Service Medal.

4. 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 correction of his DD Form 214 to show the applicant served in Panama.

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 16 August 1997 by:

a. Block 12f: 0000 03 02

b. Block 13: Southwest Asia Service Medal with 1 bronze service star, Army Service Ribbon, and National Defense Service Medal

c. Block 18: Service in Southwest Asia 19951001 - 19951231

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 amendment of the applicant's record to show service in Panama.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[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.

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 600-8-22 (Military Awards) states:

a. The Southwest Asia Service Medal is awarded to members of the Armed Forces of the United States who participated in Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm in the designated area on or after 2 August 1990 to 30 November 1995. A bronze service star is authorized for wear with this medal for participation in each credited campaign.

Approved designated campaigns are:

- Defense of Saudi Arabia (2 August 1990 to 16 January 1991)
- Liberation and Defense of Kuwait (17 January to 11 April 1991)
- Southwest Asia Cease-Fire (12 April 1991 to 30 November 1995)

b. The Army Service Ribbon was established by the Secretary of the Army on 10 April 1981. Effective 1 August 1981, all members of the Active Army, Army National Guard, and Army Reserve in an active Reserve status are eligible for the award upon successful completion of initial entry training. The award may be awarded retroactively to those personnel who completed the required training before 1 August 1981 provided they had an Active Army status on or after 1 August 1981.

c. The National Defense Service Medal is awarded for honorable active service for any period between 27 July 1950 and 27 July 1954, 1 January 1961 and 14 August 1974, 2 August 1990 and 30 November 1995, and 11 September 2001 and a date to be determined.

3. Army Regulation 635-5 (Separation Documents), then in effect, prescribed the separation documents prepared for Soldiers upon retirement, discharge, or release from active military service or control of the Army. In established standardized policy for the preparation of the DD Form 214. In pertinent part, it stated that the DD Form 214 is a synopsis of the Soldier's most recent period of continuous active duty. It provides a brief, clear-cut record of active Army service at the time of release from active duty, retirement, or discharge. It is important that information entered on the form should be complete and accurate. Chapter 2 of Army Regulation 635-5 contains guidance on the preparation of the DD Form 214. It states, in pertinent part, that for:

a. item 12f (Foreign Service), enter the total amount of foreign service completed during the period covered by the DD Form 214.

b. item 13 (Decorations, Medals, Badges, Citations and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized), list awards and decorations for all periods of service in the priority sequence specified in Army Regulation 600-8-22. Each entry will be verified by the Soldier's records. Do not use abbreviations.

c. item 18, for an active duty Soldier deployed with his or her unit during their continuous period of active service, enter statement "SERVICE IN (NAME OF COUNTRY DEPLOYED) FROM (inclusive dates for example, YYYYMMDD - YYYYMMDD)."

4. Army Regulation 15-185 (ABCMR) prescribes the policies and procedures for correction of military records by the Secretary of the Army, acting through the ABCMR. The ABCMR considers individual applications that are properly brought before it. The ABCMR will decide cases on the evidence of record. It is not an investigative body. 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.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//