

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 27 June 2025

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240011406

APPLICANT REQUESTS: to add Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB) to DD Form 214 (Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge) ending on 7 February 1972.

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- DD Form 214 ending on 7 February 1972, which shows:
  - On 5 August 1970, the applicant was inducted into the Army of the United States (AUS)
  - He completed 1 year, 6 months, and 3 days net service this period
  - He held Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) – 11B1P (Light Weapons Infantryman)
  - He was awarded the Purple Heart among other awards and decorations
  - No entry for the CIB

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 requests to add the CIB to his DD Form 214. He was an Infantryman in Vietnam, Purple Heart recipient, and he had enemy action at battalion level and below.
3. This case contains administrative corrections adding various awards, decorations, and citations. The Board will consider the applicant's contentions related to adding the CIB and awarding him the Army Good Conduct Medal.

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

- On 5 August 1970, the applicant was inducted into the AUS
- DA Form 20 (Enlisted Qualification Record) shows in item:
  - 22 (MOS) – 11B1P
  - 27 (Military Education) – Light Weapons Infantryman Course for 9-weeks in 1970
  - 29 (Qualification in Arms) – Sharpshooter Marksmanship Qualification with Rifle Bar (M-16), 1 September 1971
  - 31 (Foreign Service) – he served in Vietnam from 3 March 1971 to 5 May 1971
  - 38 (Record of Assignments) – while serving in Vietnam:
    - he was assigned to Company A, 3d Battalion (Airborne), 503d Infantry, 173d Airborne Brigade
    - he received excellent and good conduct and efficiency ratings
  - 40 (Wounds) – he suffered a fragment wound to the head with negative eye damage
  - 41 (Awards and Decorations) – no entries for the CIB, nor Army Good Conduct Medal
- On 13 April 1971, General Orders Number 62 awarded the applicant the Purple Heart, date of service 11 April 1971
- On 7 February 1972, the applicant was honorably released from active duty and was transferred to the U.S. Army Reserve Control Group (Annual Training); the applicant completed 1 year, 6 months, and 3 days total active service; in pertinent part, his DD Form 214 shows in item:
  - 24 (Decorations, Medals, Badges, Commendations, Citations and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized) –
    - Purple Heart
    - National Defense Service Medal
    - Parachute Badge
    - Vietnam Service Medal
    - Vietnam Campaign Medal
    - Vietnam Counteroffensive Phase VII
    - no entries for the CIB, nor Army Good Conduct Medal
  - 30 (Remarks) – he served in Vietnam from 3 March 1971 to 5 May 1971

- On 28 July 1976, Orders Number 07-1135100 discharged the applicant from the Standby Reserve, effective 4 August 1976

5. The applicant's service 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 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. The evidence of record shows the applicant held the MOS of 11B, was assigned to a combat unit and was engaged in combat. The Board also noted he was wounded in enemy action on 11 April 1971 and was awarded the Purple Heart. The Board was convinced that the applicant met the criteria and regulatory guidance for the award of the CIB during his military service.

2. The Board also noted that applicant met all the requirements per regulatory guidance to be awarded the Army Good Conduct Medal. Therefore, the Board determined the applicant's request warranted relief.

2. A review of the applicant's service record shows he is authorized the following additional awards on his DD Form 214. As a result, amend his DD Form 214, for the period ending 7 February 1972 to show he was authorized and awarded:

- One (1) bronze service star to the Vietnam Service Medal
- 1960 Device to Vietnam Campaign Medal
- Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation
- Republic of Vietnam Civil Actions Honor Medal First Class Unit Citation
- Sharpshooter Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-16)

BOARD VOTE:

Mbr 1      Mbr 2      Mbr 3

█	█	█	GRANT FULL RELIEF
:	:	:	GRANT PARTIAL RELIEF
:	:	:	GRANT FORMAL HEARING
:	:	:	DENY APPLICATION

BOARD DETERMINATION/RECOMMENDATION:

The Board determined the evidence presented is sufficient to warrant relief. As a result, the Board recommends that all Department of the Army records of the individual concerned by correcting his DD Form 214 for the period ending 7 February 1972 to show the following awards:

- Combat Infantryman Badge
- Army Good Conduct Medal

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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 7 February 1972, by adding:

- One (1) bronze service star to the Vietnam Service Medal
- 1960 Device to Vietnam Campaign Medal
- Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation
- Republic of Vietnam Civil Actions Honor Medal First Class Unit Citation

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

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 7 February 1972
- Department of the Army General Orders (DAGO) Number 5, 1973
- DAGO Number 8, 1974
- Army Regulation (AR) 600-8-22 (Military Awards)
- AR 635-5 (Personnel Separation - Separation Documents)
- DA Pamphlet 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. Army Regulation (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. It is not an investigative agency.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//