

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 5 August 2025

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240011449

APPLICANT REQUESTS: upgrade of his Army Commendation Medal to the Bronze Star Medal.

APPLICANT'S SUPPORTING DOCUMENT(S) CONSIDERED BY THE BOARD:
DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)

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 his downgraded Army Commendation Medal be upgraded to the Bronze Star Medal. The Veterans Administration (VA) recommended he appeal the decision considering his receipt of the Purple Heart.
3. A review of the applicant's service record shows:
 - a. He enlisted in the Regular Army on 24 March 2001.
 - b. His DA Form 20 (Enlisted Qualification Record) shows in the applicant had several periods of foreign service to include service in Iraq from 15 March 2004 to 15 March 2005.
 - c. An Army Commendation Medal Certificate, Permanent Order 80-04, dated 21 March 2007, shows the applicant was recognized for meritorious service while assigned as a Team Leader from 1 May 2007 through 5 May 2007.
 - d. The applicant did not provide nor did the available service record contain a DA Form 638 (Recommendation for Award) to show he was recommended for the Bronze Star Medal, and it was subsequently downgraded.

e. He was honorably released from active duty on 5 May 2007. His DD Form 214 shows he completed 5 year, 10 months, 17 days of active service with 4 year, 4 months and 16 days of foreign service. It also shows he was awarded or authorized:

- Purple Heart
- Army Commendation Medal (4th Award)
- Army Achievement Medal
- Army Good Conduct Medal
- National Defense Service Medal
- Afghanistan Campaign Medal
- Global War on Terrorism Service Medal
- Korea Defense Service Medal
- Iraq Campaign Medal
- Non-commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon
- Army Service Ribbon
- Overseas Service Bar (3rd Award)
- Combat Action Badge
- Air Assault Badge
- German Army Marksmanship Badge (Silver)

BOARD DISCUSSION:

After reviewing the application, all supporting documents, and the evidence found within the military record, the Board found that relief was not 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 served on active duty between 18 June 2001 through 5 May 2007, however, the Board noted the applicant provides no supporting documentation and his service record does not support his contention. Therefore, the Board denied relief.

BOARD VOTE:

| <u>Mbr 1</u> | <u>Mbr 2</u> | <u>Mbr 3</u> | |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------------|
| : | : | : | GRANT FULL RELIEF |
| : | : | : | GRANT PARTIAL RELIEF |
| : | : | : | GRANT FORMAL HEARING |
| XXX | XXX | XXX | DENY APPLICATION |

BOARD DETERMINATION/RECOMMENDATION:

The evidence presented does not demonstrate the existence of a probable error or injustice. Therefore, the Board determined the overall merits of this case are insufficient as a basis for correction of the records of the individual concerned.

X //SIGNED//

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.

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) prescribes Army policy, criteria, and administrative instructions concerning individual and unit military awards. The Bronze Star Medal is awarded in time of war for heroism and for meritorious achievement or service, not involving participation in aerial flight, in connection with military operations against an armed enemy, or while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party. As with all personal decorations, formal recommendations, approval through the chain of command, and announcement in orders are required.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//