

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 31 July 2025

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240011678

APPLICANT REQUESTS: correction of his DD Form 214 (Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge) to show award of the Combat Infantryman Badge.

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- Article, titled "Enhanced Combat Support During the Vietnam War," undated
- 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 is requesting a retroactive award of the Combat Infantryman Badge.
3. The applicant provides an article titled "Enhanced Combat Support During the Vietnam War" that shows in part:

On 25 July 1970, the 720th Military Police Battalion [Bushwhackers] relinquished ownership of its tactical area of responsibility to the 25th Infantry Division. From 20 October 1967 to 25 July 1970, the Bushwhackers earned 24 Purple Heart Medals, 13 of which were awarded posthumously. Two military policemen were awarded the Silver Star Medal, and several others were awarded Bronze Star Medals. Spite the constant peril and close combat they experienced during Operation Stabilize, the Bushwhackers did not hold the military occupational specialty (MOS) 11B (Infantry). They were ineligible for the Combat Infantryman Badge. For decades, these military policemen "Infantryman" received scant recognition for their significant contributions during their service on 24 July 2023. On that day, during a ceremony held at Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C., veterans of Company B, 720th Military Police Battalion, were retroactively awarded Bronze Star

Medals. These medals were also awarded to the military working dog handlers of the 212th Military Police Company. The event officially acknowledged the combat role performed by the Bushwhackers and their attached military working dog handlers and clearly honored who they were and what they did-and defined how they should be remembered.

3. A review of the applicant's service records shows:

a. He enlisted in the Regular Army on 28 July 1969, he was awarded the military occupational specialty (MOS) 95B (Military Police).

b. His DA Form 20 (Enlisted Qualification Record) shows in:

- item 22 (Military Occupational Specialties) – 95B Military Policeman
- item 31 (Foreign Service) – he served in Vietnam from 20 December 1969 to 20 November 1970
- item 35 (Record of Assignments) – he was assigned to Company B, 720th Military Police Battalion, Vietnam from 23 December 1969 to 1 June 1970; Company B, 716th Military Police Battalion, Vietnam from 2 June 1970 to 19 November 1970

c. He was honorably released from active duty on 27 July 1971. His DD Form 214 shows he completed 2 years of active service. It also shows he was awarded or authorized:

- National Defense Service Medal
- Vietnam Service Medal
- Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device 1960
- Army Commendation Medal
- Army Good Conduct Medal

4. The record is void of documentation awarding the applicant the Combat Infantryman Badge.

5. A review of the applicant's record confirms he is eligible for an award and campaign credits that are not recorded on his DD Form 214. The entries will be added to his DD Form 214 as administrative corrections and will not be considered by the Board.

BOARD DISCUSSION:

After reviewing the application and all supporting documents, the Board determined relief was not warranted. Based upon the applicant's military record reflecting he held the MOS of 95B, Military Policeman, the Board concluded the applicant did not hold the appropriate MOS (Infantry) to qualify for the Combat Infantryman Badge. As a result, the Board recommended denying relief.

2. Prior to closing the case, the Board did note the analyst of record administrative notes below, and recommended the correction be completed 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
:XXX	:XXX	:XXX	DENY APPLICATION

BOARD DETERMINATION/RECOMMENDATION:

1. 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.
2. Prior to closing the case, the Board did note the analyst of record administrative notes below, and recommended the correction be completed to more accurately depict 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):

A review of the applicant's service records show he is authorized additional campaign credit not annotated on his DD Form 214. As a result, amend his DD Form 214 to show:

- Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation
- Republic of Vietnam Civil Actions Honor Medal First Class Unit Citation
- three bronze service stars to his previously awarded Vietnam Service Medal
- Expert Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-14)
- Expert Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-16)

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), currently in effect, provides Army

policy, criteria, and administrative instructions concerning individual military decorations. It states for award of the Combat Infantryman Badge.

a. A Soldier must meet the following three requirements:

- be an infantryman satisfactorily performing infantry duties
- assigned to an infantry unit during such time as the unit is engaged in active ground combat
- actively participate in such ground combat

b. The Combat Infantryman Badge is awarded to infantry officers and to enlisted and warrant officer persons who have an infantry military occupational specialty (MOS). They must have served in active ground combat while assigned or attached to an infantry unit of brigade, regimental or smaller size.

c. During the Vietnam Conflict, subsequent to 1 March 1961, any officer, warrant officer, or enlisted Soldier whose branch was other than Infantry will be eligible for award of the Combat Infantryman Badge provided all the below listed requirements have been met:

- Assigned as advisor to an Infantry unit, Ranger unit, Infantry-type unit of the civil guard of regimental or smaller size, and/or Infantry-type unit of the self-defense corps unit of regimental or smaller size of the Vietnamese government during any period such unit was engaged in actual ground combat
- Assigned as advisor of an irregular force comparable to the above Infantry units under similar conditions
- Personally present and under fire while serving in an assigned primary duty as a member of a tactical advisory team while the unit participated in ground combat

3. Army Regulation 600-8-22 also shows the following:

a. A bronze service star is worn on the appropriate service ribbon, to include the Vietnam Service Medal, for each credited campaign.

b. The qualification badge is awarded to indicate the degree – Expert, Sharpshooter, and Marksman -- in which an individual has qualified in a prescribed record course. An appropriate bar is furnished to denote each weapon with which the individual has qualified.

4. Army Regulation 635-5 (Separation Documents) prescribes the separation documents prepared for Soldiers upon retirement, discharge, or release from active military service or control of the Army. It establishes standardized policy for the preparation of the DD Form 214 and states that the DD Form 214 is a synopsis of the Soldier's most recent period of continuous active service. The DD Form 214 provides a brief, clear-cut record of active Army service at the time of release from active duty, retirement, or discharge. Item 41 states only entries from item 21, DA Form 66 (Officer Qualification Record), or section 9, DA Form 20 (Enlisted Qualification Record) all decorations, service medals, campaign credits, and badges awarded or authorized, omitting authorities cited therein.

5. Department of the Army Pamphlet 672-1 (Awards and Decorations) provided for award of the Combat Infantryman Badge for:

a. Signal Personnel. Appendix 3 to Annex A of this regulation listed advisor positions which qualified for award of the Combat Infantryman Badge. The regulation authorized award of the Combat Infantryman Badge to radio/telephone operators provided their primary duty was to accompany infantry or infantry-type units on tactical operations.

b. Cavalry Units. the Combat Infantryman Badge is awarded to infantry officers and to enlisted and warrant officer persons who have an infantry military occupational specialty (MOS). They must have served in active ground combat while assigned or attached to an infantry unit of brigade, regimental or smaller size.

6. Department of the Army Pamphlet 672-3 (Unit Citation and Campaign Participation Credit Register) lists the awards received by units serving in Vietnam. This pamphlet shows the unit to which the applicant was assigned was cited for award of:

a. The Republic of Vietnam Civil Actions Honor Medal First Class Unit Citation for the period 29 September 1966 to 28 March 1973 by Department of the Army General Order (DAGO) Number 6, dated 1973.

b. The Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation for the period 29 September 1966 to 28 March 1973 by DAGO Number 6, dated 1974.

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