

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 13 August 2025

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240011760

APPLICANT REQUESTS: award of the Purple Heart.

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- Self-authored statement
- DD Form 214 (Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge), ending 2 May 1966
- Medical records showing his existing conditions as supporting evidence
- Veteran's Affairs (VA) Disability Ratings showing he is receiving 100 percent compensation for his service-connected injuries
- Purple Heart Award eligibility via the Air Force's Personnel Center website, showing the criteria to which a service member would be authorized the award of the Purple Heart

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, in part:

- After completing basic and advanced individual training he was assigned to his unit, 62nd Engineer Battalion, and deployed to Vietnam
- He served in Vietnam from September 1965 to May 1966 and began having health issues once he returned home from the deployment
- In 2005, he began filing for VA disability compensation and started seeing medical specialists for his issues
- He deserves to be awarded the Purple Heart due to the number of service-connected disabilities

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

- On 14 May 1964, he was inducted into the Army of the United States
- DA Form 20 (Enlisted Qualification Record) shows the following:
 - Block 31 (Foreign Service) service in Vietnam from 7 August 1965 – 2 May 1966
 - Block 40 (Wounds) is void of an entry
 - Block 41 (Awards and Decorations) he was awarded the following:
 - Vietnam Service Medal
 - Army Good Conduct Medal
 - One Overseas Service Stripe
- DD Form 214, ending 2 May 1966 reflects an honorable release from active duty with net active service of 1 year, 11 months, and 19 days; Block 26 (Decorations, Medals, Badges, Commendations, Citations and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized) shows he was awarded the following:
 - Vietnam Service Medal
 - Army Good Conduct Medal
 - Sharpshooter Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-14)

4. His name does not appear on the Vietnam Casualty Roster, review of the Awards and Decorations Computer Assisted Retrieval System (ADCARS) maintained by the U.S. Army Human Resources Command, which is an index of general orders issued during the Vietnam era between 1965 and 1973, failed to reveal any orders for the Purple Heart pertaining to him, and his record is void of any instruments awarding him the Purple Heart

BOARD DISCUSSION:

1. 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. Upon review of the applicant's petition and available military records, the Board determined there is no medical record showing the applicant received wounds caused by enemy forces that required treatment by medical personnel.
2. Per the regulatory guidance on awarding the Purple Heart, the applicant must provide or have in his service records substantiating evidence to verify that he was injured, the wound was the result of hostile action, the wound must have required treatment by medical personnel, and the medical treatment must have been made a matter of official record. Based on this, the Board determined the applicant did not meet the criteria for award of the Purple Heart.
3. Prior to closing the discussion, the Board reviewed and concurred with the administrative note below to more accurately depict the military service of the applicant.

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.

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE(S):

A review of the applicant's record shows his DD Form 214, for the period ending 2 May 1966, is missing additional awards, as a result, amend the DD Form 214 by adding:

- Two bronze service stars to his already awarded Vietnam Service Medal
- Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation
- Vietnam Campaign Medal with 1960 Device

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 the Purple Heart is awarded for a wound sustained while in action against an enemy or as a result of hostile action. Substantiating evidence must be provided to verify that the wound was the result of hostile action, the wound must have required treatment by medical personnel, and the medical treatment must have been made a matter of official record.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//