

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 20 June 2025

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240011816

APPLICANT REQUESTS: correction of her DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) to show award of the Army Commendation Medal.

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- DD Form 214 that shows she was on active duty in the Regular Army from 27 August 1980 through 22 August 1983
- Three photographs that show an Army dress uniform with an Army Commendation Medal and the applicant's 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 she was awarded the Army Commendation Medal because of the cleanliness, organization, and impeccable recordkeeping of the arms room that she maintained while assigned as the armorer for Battery B, 1st Battalion, 80th Field Artillery Regiment. However, she does not have the official documentation to accompany the decoration.
3. A review of the applicant's service record shows:
 - She enlisted in the United States Army Reserve (USAR) on 21 July 1980, with delayed enlistment into the Regular Army on 27 August 1980
 - DA Form 2-1 (Personnel Qualification Record – Part II) shows in item 9 (Awards, Decorations, & Campaigns) that she was awarded:
 - Marksman Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Pistol Bar (.38 caliber pistol)
 - Marksman Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-16)

- Army Service Ribbon
 - Army Achievement Medal
 - Overseas Service Ribbon
- She was honorably released from active duty on 22 August 1983; her DD Form 214 shows she completed 2 years, 11 months, and 26 days of service and was awarded the following:
- Army Service Ribbon
 - Overseas Service Ribbon
 - Army Achievement Medal
 - Marksman Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Pistol Bar (.38 caliber pistol)
 - Marksman Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-16)

4. The applicant's record does not contain, nor does she provide orders for award of the Army Commendation 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 not warranted. The Board carefully considered the applicant's record of service, documents submitted in support of the petition and executed a comprehensive and standard review based on law, policy and regulation. Upon review of the applicant's petition and available military record, the Board found no documentation substantiating the applicant was awarded the Army Commendation Medal. The Board noted, in accordance with regulatory guidance, personal awards such as the Army Commendation Medal require a formal recommendation, endorsement through the appropriate chain of command, and official publication in orders. These elements are essential to validate the award and authorize its entry on a service member's DD Form 214.

2. The Board agreed, the absence of any orders or formal documentation reflecting approval of the award renders the available evidence insufficient to amend the applicant's record. Therefore, the Board determined there is no basis to grant the requested relief, and correction of the DD Form 214 to include the Army Commendation Medal is not warranted.

BOARD VOTE:

Mbr 1 Mbr 2 Mbr 3

: : : GRANT FULL RELIEF

: : : GRANT PARTIAL RELIEF

: : : GRANT FORMAL HEARING

■ ■ ■ 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	
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 (AR) 600-8-22 (Military Awards) states the Army Commendation Medal may be awarded to any member of the Armed Forces of the United States who, while serving in any capacity with the Army after 6 December 1941, distinguishes himself or herself by heroism, meritorious achievement, or meritorious service. As with

all personal decorations, formal recommendations, approval through the chain of command, and announcement in orders are required.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//