

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 30 September 2025

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240011822

APPLICANT REQUESTS: award of the Army Good Conduct Medal.

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- Self-Authored Statement
- Outstanding Soldier of the Year Recommendation Memorandum, 6 January 1956
- DD Form 214 (Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge)

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 was honored to recommended for Outstanding Soldier of the Month. However, he transferred from Fort Devens to Fort Myer before meeting with the commanding officer. Given his record of honorable service, he believes he should have received the Good Conduct Medal. Now, at 90 years old, he reflects on his life with pride. He has three children who remember his service, and he lost his beloved wife six years ago.
3. The applicant provides a memorandum from his commander dated 6 January 1956 where he was recommended to represent his unit at the Battalion Soldier of the Month Board.
4. The applicant's complete military records are not available to the Board for review. An exhaustive search was undertaken to locate his service records. However, there were sufficient documents remaining in a reconstructed record to conduct a fair and impartial review of this case. This case is being considered using reconstructed records, which primarily consist of a DD Form 214:

- a. He was inducted into the Army of the United States on 21 March 1955.
- b. He was assigned to Headquarter Company United States Army as an 710.00 (Clerk).
- c. The available service record does not contain evidence of misconduct or nonjudicial punishment nor does it contain a letter of disqualification or award for the Army Good Conduct Medal.
- d. He was honorably released from active duty to the on 20 March 1957. His DD Form 214 shows he completed 2 years of total active service with no lost days. It also shows he was not awarded or authorized any awards.

BOARD DISCUSSION:

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. Upon review of the applicant's petition and available military records, the Board determined there was sufficient evidence, including his service from 21 March 1955 to 20 March 1957, a period of 2 years with no lost time. Based on this, the Board granted relief to correct the applicant's record to reflect award of the Army Good Conduct Medal (First Award).

BOARD VOTE:

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

BOARD DETERMINATION/RECOMMENDATION:

The Board determined the evidence presented is sufficient to warrant partial relief. As a result, the Board recommends that all Department of the Army records of the individual concerned be corrected by amending the applicant's DD Form 214, for the period ending 20 March 1957 by:

- awarding him the Army Good Conduct Medal (First Award) for the qualifying period 21 March 1955 to 20 March 1957
- adding the Army Good Conduct Medal (First Award) to his DD Form 214

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, USC, section 1552(b), provides that applications for correction of military records must be filed within three years after discovery of the alleged error or injustice. This provision of law also allows the Army Board for Correction of Military Records (ABCMR) to excuse an applicant's failure to timely file within the three-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, states the Army Good Conduct Medal is awarded to individuals who distinguish themselves by their conduct, efficiency, and fidelity during a qualifying period of active duty enlisted service. This period is 3 years except in those cases when the period for the first award ends with the termination of a period of Federal military service. Although there is no automatic entitlement to the Army Good Conduct Medal, disqualification must be justified.

3. Army Regulation 672-5-1 (Awards), in effect at the time, stated the Army Good Conduct Medal was awarded for each 3 years of continuous enlisted active Federal military service completed on or after 27 August 1940; for first award only, 1 year served entirely during the period 7 December 1941 to 2 March 1946; and, for the first award only, upon termination of service on or after 27 June 1950 of less than 3 years but more than 1 year. The enlisted person must have had all "excellent" conduct and efficiency ratings. Ratings of "Unknown" for portions of the period under consideration were not disqualifying. Service school efficiency ratings based upon academic proficiency of at least "Good" rendered subsequent to 22 November 1955 were not disqualifying. There must have been no convictions by a court-martial. However, there was no right or entitlement to the medal until the immediate commander made a positive recommendation for its award and until the awarding authority announced the award in general orders.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//