

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 6 August 2025

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240012251

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

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- Self-Authored Statement
- Bronze Star Medal Citation
- Bronze Star Medal Certificate, 22 June 1969
- 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 he would like the Bronze Star Medal added to his DD Form 214 for accurate depiction of his service and for his family.
3. The applicant provides:
 - a. A citation that shows he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, for meritorious achievement in ground operations against hostile forces during the period March 1969 to January 1970 in Vietnam.
 - b. A partially illegible certificate of the Bronze Star Medal void of the name, time period covered, date signed and order number.
4. A review of the applicant's record shows:
 - a. He was inducted into the Army of the United States on 26 August 1968.

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

(1) item 31 (Foreign Service) – service in Vietnam from 20 January 1969 to 29 March 1970.

(2) item 38 (Record of Assignments) – he was assigned to Battery A, 1st Battalion, 7th Artillery, 1st Infantry Division; he received all excellent conduct and efficiency ratings.

(3) item 41 (Awards and Decorations) – he was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960), Army Commendation Medal, Sharpshooter Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-16), and a Marksman Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Artillery Bar.

c. On 29 March 1970, he was honorably released from active duty. His DD Form 214 shows he completed 1 year, 7 months, and 4 days of active service. It also shows he was awarded or authorized the:

- National Defense Service Medal
- Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal
- Vietnam Service Medal
- Army Commendation Medal

5. The applicant's service records are void of orders awarding him the Bronze Star Medal.

6. His records are void of a commander's disqualification for award of the Army Good Conduct Medal (1st Award) for the period 26 August 1968 through 29 March 1970.

7. A review of the Awards and Decorations Computer-Assisted Retrieval System, an index of general orders issued during the Vietnam era between 1965 and 1973 maintained by the U.S. Army Human Resources Command Military Awards Branch, failed to reveal any orders for the Bronze Star Medal pertaining to the applicant.

8. A review of the applicant's record confirms he is eligible for awards and campaign credits that are not recorded on his DD Form 214.

BOARD DISCUSSION:

1. After reviewing the application, all supporting documents, and the evidence found within the military record, the Board found that partial relief was warranted. The applicant's contentions, the military record, and regulatory guidance were carefully considered.

a.. Bronze Star Medal. Deny. The Board reviewed the applicant's statement as well as the supporting documents; however, the Bronze Star Medal certificate is illegible. As with all personal decorations, formal recommendations, approval through the chain of command, and announcement in orders are required. Based on this, the Board determined award of the Bronze Star Medal is not warranted.

b. A review of the applicant's service record shows he is authorized an additional award. As a result, amend his DD Form 214 to show award of the Army Good Conduct Medal (1st Award) for the period 26 August 1968 through 29 March 1970.

2. 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
XX	XX	XX	GRANT PARTIAL RELIEF
:	:	:	GRANT FORMAL HEARING
:	:	:	DENY APPLICATION

BOARD DETERMINATION/RECOMMENDATION:

1. 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 29 March 1970, by adding the:

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

2. The Board further determined that the evidence presented is insufficient to warrant a portion of the requested relief. As a result, the Board recommends denial of so much of the application that pertains to award of the Bronze Star Medal.


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 records show he was awarded or authorized the following awards and administrative corrections not reflected 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
- Sharpshooter Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-16)
- Marksman Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Artillery Bar
- three bronze service stars to his previously awarded Vietnam Service Medal

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 15-185 (Army Board for Correction of Military Records) prescribes the policies and procedures for correction of military records by the Secretary of the Army acting through the ABCMR. The ABCMR begins its consideration of each case with the presumption of administrative regularity. The applicant has the burden of proving an error or injustice by a preponderance of the evidence.
3. Army Regulation 600-8-22 (Military Awards) prescribes Army policy, criteria, and administrative instructions concerning individual and unit military award.
 - a. 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.
 - 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.

c. The Army Good Conduct Medal is awarded to individuals who distinguish themselves by their conduct, efficiency, and fidelity. Although there is no automatic entitlement to the Army Good Conduct Medal, disqualification must be justified. Any one of the following periods of continuous enlisted active Federal military service qualifies for award:

- Each 3 years 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
- For first award only, upon termination of service on or after 27 June 1950 of less than 3 years but more than 1 year

4. 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 the:

a. Republic of Vietnam Civil Actions Honor Medal First Class Unit Citation awarded to 1st Battalion, 7th Artillery for the period 12 July 1965 to 7 April 1970 by Department of the Army General Order Number 53, dated 22 October 1970.

b. Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation awarded to Headquarters, United States Army Vietnam and its subordinate units for the period 8 February 1962 to 23 March 1973 by Department of the Army General Order Number 8, dated 19 March 1974.

6. 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//