

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: ██████████

BOARD DATE: 28 August 2025

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240013341

APPLICANT REQUESTS:

- correction of his DD Form 214 (Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge) to reflect he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device and in effect, the Silver Star
- award of the Purple Heart

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

DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)

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:

a. The Bronze Star Medal was awarded to him with no "V" Device attached. He volunteered for combat duty with Infantry units due to a shortage of men needed at fire support bases, He recalls Fire Support Base Furry, Murray, and others. He was assigned to "ARVIN" outposts such as Phu Hoa Dong, Tang Tang Dong, and others he cannot say or spell. A large percentage of his duties were at outposts in many parts of Vietnam.

b. He believes his record to be unjust based on the amount of contact with enemy forces, fire support bases, "ARVIN" outposts and patrolling with Infantry units at Tang Tang Dong and with Green Beret Captain E_____.

c. When Cu Chi was under siege in February 1968, enemy forces inside the Cu Chi Base Camp attacked and killed many unsuspecting Soldiers. No gunshots were fired, but he had gone to the latrine and spotted the enemy without being able to warn anyone. He found five clerks alive and scouted the area, finding many dead. He found

the medical evacuation chopper pilot inside a culvert and found many helicopters on fire.

d. After 17.5 years of psychological therapy and medical surgeries trying to stay alive, it was hard for him living with the guilt, anger, and shame. He lost his wife, children, relatives, and friends to this war. He was also not awarded the Purple Heart after being wounded on the left forearm at Phu Hoa Dong. Yes, he was awarded the Silver Star.

3. The applicant was inducted into the Army of the United States on 9 February 1967.

4. A DD Form 214 shows the applicant was honorably discharged after 5 days of net active service on 13 February 1967, for the purpose of immediate enlistment in the Regular Army.

5. On 14 February 1967, the applicant enlisted in the Regular Army.

6. The applicant's DA Form 20 (Enlisted Qualification Record) shows:

- in item 31 (Foreign Service) the applicant served in Vietnam from 1 March 1968 through 28 February 1969
- item 40 (Wounds) is blank
- in item 41 (Awards and Decorations) he was awarded or authorized the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960), overseas service bar

7. Headquarters, 25th Infantry Division General Orders Number 1197, 6 February 1969, awarded the applicant the Army Commendation Medal for meritorious service in connection with military operations against a hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam from March 1968 through March 1969.

8. A second DD Form 214 shows:

a. The applicant was honorably released from active duty and transferred to the U.S. Army Reserve (USAR) Control Group (Reinforcement) on 13 February 1970, due to expiration term of service (ETS).

b. He was credited with 3 years of net active service this period, including 1 year of foreign service in Vietnam.

c. He was awarded or authorized the:

- National Defense Service Medal

- two overseas service bars,
- Vietnam Service Medal with two bronze service stars
- Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960)
- Sharpshooter Marksmanship Badge with Rifle Bar (M-14)
- Marksman Marksmanship Badge with Rifle Bar (M-16).

d. Note that the Bronze Star Medal with “V” Device, Purple Heart, Silver Star, and the Army Commendation Medal are not listed on this form.

9. The applicant’s available service records do not contain orders awarding him the Bronze Star Medal with “V” Device, Purple Heart, or the Silver Star.

10. U.S. Army Reserve Components Personnel and Administration Center Letter Orders Number 01-1004766, 17 January 1973, honorably discharged the applicant from the USAR Control Group (Standby) effective 1 February 1973, due to ETS.

11. A DD Form 215 (Correction to DD Form 214), issued on 18 April 2016, corrected his DD Form 214 covering the period ending 13 February 1970, to add in item 23a (Specialty Number and Title) Radar Maintenance Supervisor – Inspector.

12. A review of the Awards and Decorations Computer Assisted Retrieval System (ADCARS) maintained by the U.S. Army Human Resources Command Military Awards Branch, an index of general orders issued during the Vietnam era between 1965 and 1973, failed to reveal any orders for the Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, or the Silver Star pertaining to the applicant. ADCARS did however, contain the Army Commendation Medal General Orders discussed above.

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. The evidence of record shows the applicant served in Vietnam from on or about 1 March 1968 through 28 February 1969. DA Form 20, item 40 is void of an entry for any sustained wounds as a result of combat and item 41 is void of an entry for the Silver Star, Purple Heart and Bronze Star Medal with "V" Device. The Board noted the applicant provides no supporting documentation and his service record does not support his contention. Therefore, the Board denied 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:

<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:

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. The applicant's DD Form 214 is missing an award that will be administratively added as identified in the "administrative notes" section of the record of proceedings.

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 available records shows the applicant's DD Form 214 covering the period ending 13 February 1970, should be amended by adding the Army Commendation Medal to item 24 (Decorations, Medals, Badges, Commendations, Citations, and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized).

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), prescribes Army policy, criteria, and administrative instructions concerning individual and unit military awards.

a. 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.

b. 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.

c. The Silver Star is awarded for gallantry in action against the enemy. The required gallantry (spirited and conspicuous acts of heroism and courage) must have been performed with marked distinction. As with all personal decorations, formal recommendations, approval through the chain of command, and announcement in orders are required.

d. The bronze "V" device indicates acts of heroism involving conflict with an armed enemy and authorizes the bronze "V" device in conjunction with awards of the Army Commendation Medal, the Air Medal, and the Bronze Star Medal. Although more than one award of the Army Commendation Medal, the Air Medal, or the Bronze Star Medal may be made for heroism to the same person, only one "V" device may be worn on awards of the Army Commendation Medal, the Air Medal, or the Bronze Star Medal.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//