

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 21 August 2025

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240013382

APPLICANT REQUESTS: correction of his DD Form 214 (Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge) to reflect 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 letter
- Bronze Star Medal Certificate, 20 September 1971

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 the Bronze Star Medal was issued on 20 September 1971 but is not listed on his DD Form 214.
3. The applicant's DA Form 66 (Officer Qualification Record) shows he was commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Army Reserve (USAR) on 17 January 1970.
4. The applicant's DD Form 214 shows he was ordered to active duty from the USAR on 3 March 1970.
5. The applicant's DA Form 66 further shows:
 - a. Item 17 (Foreign Service) shows he served in Vietnam from 3 December 1970 through 3 November 1971.
 - b. Item 21 (Awards and Decorations) shows he was awarded or authorized:
 - National Defense Service Medal
 - Vietnam Service Medal

- Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960)
- one Overseas Service Bar

6. The applicant provided a copy of a Bronze Star Medal Certificate, reflecting his award of the Bronze Star Medal on 20 September 1971, for meritorious achievement in ground operations against hostile forces from December 1970 to September 1971. The Bronze Star Medal Certificate does not contain the orders number.

7. The applicant's DD Form 214 shows:

a. He was honorably released from active duty on 6 November 1971 and transferred to the USASR Control Group (Annual Training)

b. He was credited with 1 years, 8 months, and 4 days of net active service, including 10 months and 1 day of foreign and/or sea service in U.S. Army Pacific (USARPAC).

c. He was awarded or authorized:

- National Defense Service Medal
- Vietnam Service Medal
- Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960)
- one Overseas Service Bar

8. The applicant's available records do not contain orders awarding him the Bronze Star Medal.

9. 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 pertaining to the applicant.

BOARD DISCUSSION:

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 was commissioned as an officer in the USAR on 17 January 1970 and served in Vietnam from 3 December 1970 through 3 November 1971. He provides a Bronze Star Medal certificate presented to the applicant for his service in Vietnam or the period December 1970 through September 1971 for operations against hostile forces in Vietnam. The Board noted the DA Form 638 was most likely lost through the passage of time. Therefore, the Board determined the applicant was awarded the Bronze Star Medal in the absence of the DA Form 638.

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 relief. As a result, the Board recommends that all Department of the Army records of the individual concerned be corrected by adding the Bronze Star Medal to his DD Form 214 ending on 6 November 1971.

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, 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. 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.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//