

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 6 August 2025

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240013409

APPLICANT REQUESTS: correction of his DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) to show:

- Award of the Army Commendation Medal (3rd Award)
- In Item 7b (Home of Record) –Stowe, VT vice Stowe, NY
- In Item 14 (Military Education) –
 - U.S. Air Force Airlift of Hazardous Materials Course, September 1989
 - Pathfinder Course, May 1991
 - U.S. Air Force Military Airlift Command Load Planners Course, May 1991

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- Permanent Orders Number 81-21, 4 May 1989
- Certificate, Military Airlift Load Planners Course, 19 May 1989
- Certificate, Airlift of Hazardous Materials Course, 9 September 1989
- Army Commendation Medal Certificates (x3)
- Verification of Military Experience and Training, 1 July 2021
- 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 his DD Form 214 should be corrected to show his home of record as Stowe, VT. Additionally, his awards should be corrected to show he earned three Army Commendation Medals, completed the Pathfinder, U.S. Air Force (USAF) Military Airlift Command Load Planners, and the USAF Airlift of Hazardous Material courses.
3. The applicant provides the following:

a. Permanent Orders Number 81-21, 4 May 1989, show he was awarded the Army Commendation Medal for the period 24 January to 9 February 1989, for meritorious achievement.

b. A certificate of completion for the Airlift of Hazardous Materials Course, 38 hours, dated 9 September 1989.

c. Two Army Commendation Medal certificates show:

- meritorious achievement as the company executive officer during Joint Readiness Training Center rotation 91-6, from 3 May to 13 May 1991
- meritorious service while serving as an infantry and military intelligence officer for 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry and Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Brigade, from 6 January 1988 to 1 May 1992

d. A Verification of Military Experience Training, 1 July 2021, shows in part his completion of the Pathfinder Course, 3 weeks, May 1991.

4. A review of the applicant's service record shows:

a. He was appointed as a Reserve commissioned officer and executed an oath of office on 30 June 1992. The address shows the applicant resided in Stowe, VT.

b. On 30 June 1992, he was honorably released from active duty. He completed 5 years, 1 month, and 4 days of active service. It also shows the following:

- Item 7b –Stowe, NY
- Item 13 – he was awarded or authorized the Army Commendation Medal (2nd Award), Army Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, and the Basic Parachutist Badge
- Item 14 –Nuclear Biological Chemical Officer Course, 3 weeks, October 1990, Infantry Officer Basic Course, 16 weeks, December 1987, Airborne Course, 3 weeks, May 1985
- Item 19 –Stowe, VT

c. His records are void of orders showing award of a third 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 partial relief was warranted. The applicant's contentions, the military record, and regulatory guidance were carefully considered.

2. The Army Commendation Medal (3rd Award). Grant. The Board was convinced by a preponderance of the evidence, specifically the Army Commendation Medal Certificate provided by the applicant for meritorious service while serving as a military intelligence officer from 6 January 1988 to 1 May 1992. The Board concluded the Army Commendation Medal was awarded to the applicant and will be added to his DD Form 214.

3. Home or Record. Grant. The information in the records must reflect the conditions and circumstances that existed at the time the records were created. In the absence of evidence that shows a material error or injustice, there is a reluctance to recommend that those records be changed. However, the Board determined sufficient evidence to support that the applicant entered the service in Stowe, VT and at no fault of the applicant, his DD Form 214 shows his Home or Record as Stowe, NY. Based on this the Board determined relief was warranted and granted relief.

4. Military Education. Grant. After reviewing the application, all supporting documents, and the evidence found within the military record, the Board found that relief was warranted for the applicant's request to add military education for completion of the U.S. Air Force Military Airlift Command Load Planners Course, for 1 week, completed in 1989 and the Pathfinder Course, for 3 weeks, completed in May 1991.

5. The U.S. Air Force Airlift of Hazardous Materials Course. Deny. The applicant's completion of this course is not in question; however, the duration of training must be of at least 1 week or 40 hours. The evidence of record shows this course was short of the required 40 hour duration for addition to the DD Form 214. Based on this the Board determined relief was not warranted.

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 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 30 June 1992 to show in:

- Block 13: Army Commendation Medal (3rd Award)
- Block 7b: Stowe, VT
- Block 14: Military Airlift Command Load Planners Course, 1 week, 1989, Pathfinder Course, 3 weeks, May 1991

2. The Board further determined 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 any other requested relief not mentioned above.



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 15-185 (ABCMR) 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, which is that what the Army did was correct. The ABCMR is not an investigative body and decides cases based on the evidence that is presented in the military records provided and the independent evidence submitted with the application. The applicant has the burden of proving an error or injustice by a preponderance of the evidence.
3. Army Regulation 635-8 (Separation Documents) currently in effect, prescribes the separation documents prepared for Soldiers upon retirement, discharge, or release from active military service or control of the Army.
 - a. Block 7b (Home of Record), states Soldier's initial enlistment contract or appointment document is the source for this data. List the street address, city, state, and zip code listed as the Soldier's home of record. Home of record is the place recorded as the home of record of the Soldier when commissioned, appointed, enlisted, or ordered to a tour of active duty. This cannot be changed unless there is a break in active service of at least 1 full day.
 - b. Block 13 (Decorations, Medals, Badges, Commendations, Citations and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized), states list all federally recognized awards and decorations for all periods of service.
 - c. Block 14 (Military Education) states list all formal, in-service (full time attendance) training courses successfully completed during the period of service covered by the DD Form 214 of at least 1 week or 40 hours duration. Include course title, length in weeks, and year completed. This information is to assist the Soldier in job placement and counseling; therefore, do not list training courses for combat skills.
 - d. Block 19 (Mailing Address After Separation), states data source is provided by the Soldier. This address must be a permanent address. Civilian penal institutions will not be accepted. Enter street address, city, state, and zip code.

4. Army Regulation 600-8-22 (Military Awards) prescribes Army policy, criteria, and administrative instructions concerning individual and unit military awards. It 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//