

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 5 August 2025

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240013589

APPLICANT REQUESTS: award of the Army Good Conduct Medal (AGCM).

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- Army Good Conduct Medal Printout, undated
- National Personnel Records Center, December 8, 2008
- Certification of Military Service, for the period
- Map of Korea, undated
- DD Form 214 (Report of Separation from the Armed Forces of the United States)
- DD Form 215 (Correction to 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 served two combat tours in North Korea from 1952-1953. He wrote to the Army Board for the Correction of Military Records in 1975, but did not receive a response. He wrote again in 2008, and the Board responded that his records were destroyed in a fire.
3. The applicant's military records are not available to the Board for review. A fire destroyed approximately 18 million service members' records at the National Personnel Records Center in 1973. It is believed his records were lost or destroyed in that fire. 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 his DD Form 214 and DD Form 215.
4. A review of the applicant's DD Form 214 (Report of Separation from the Armed Forces of the United States) shows:

- a. He enlisted in the Regular Army on 30 January 1952.
- b. He was awarded or authorized the Basic Parachutist Badge, Combat Infantryman Badge, Korean Service Medal, with 2 bronze service stars, National Defense Service Medal, and the United Nations Service Medal.
- c. On 1 February 1955, he was honorably released from active duty. His DD Form 214 shows he completed 3 years of active service.

5. On 25 October 2018, the applicant was issued a DD Form 215 (Correction to DD Form 214) that shows in item 27 (Decorations, Medals, Badges, Commendations, Citations, and Campaign Ribbons, Awarded or Authorized) add:

- Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation
- Korean War Service Medal

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 30 January 1952 to 1 February 1955, a period of 3 years and 3 days. 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>	
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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 1 February 1955 by:

- awarding him the Army Good Conduct Medal (First Award) for the qualifying period 30 January 1952 to 1 February 1955
- 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, 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), currently in effect, prescribes Department of the Army policy, criteria, and administrative instructions concerning individual and unit military awards. The AGCM is awarded to on a selective basis to each Soldier who distinguishes himself or herself from among his or her fellow Soldiers by exemplary conduct, efficiency, and fidelity throughout a specified period of continuous enlisted active Federal military service. There is no right or entitlement to the medal until the immediate commander has approved the award and the award has been announced in permanent orders.
 - a. The periods of service of qualifying service are: (1) each 3 years completed on or after 27 August 1940; (2) for the first award only, 1 year served entirely during the period 7 December 1941 to 2 March 1946; (3) 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; (4) for the first award only, upon termination of service on or after 27 June 1950 of less than 1 year when final separation was by reason of physical disability incurred in line of duty; or (5) for the first award only, for those individuals who died before completing 1 year of active Federal military service or if the death occurred in the line of duty.
 - b. Throughout a qualifying period of service, the enlisted Soldier's character must have been above reproach and must meet all of the following criteria for award of the ARCM as indicated in the Soldier's record: willingly complied with the demands of the military environment, been loyal and obedient to his or her superiors, faithfully supported the goals of his or her organization and the Army, and conducted himself or herself in an exemplary manner as to distinguish him or her from fellow Soldiers.
3. Army Regulation 672-5-1 (Decorations and Awards), in effect at the time, stated the AGCM was awarded for each 3 years of continuous enlisted active Federal military service completed on or after 27 August 1940; for the 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//