

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 20 August 2025

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240013738

APPLICANT REQUESTS: correction of his DD Form 214 (Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge) for the period ending 7 July 1970 to show award of the Army Commendation Medal.

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- Army Commendation Medal Citation, which shows the applicant distinguished himself by exceptionally meritorious service in support of military operations in the Republic of Vietnam, during the period October 1969 to July 1970
- Honorable Discharge Certificate
- 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 was awarded the Army Commendation Medal, and he never received the medal.
3. A review of the applicant's service record shows:
  - a. He was inducted into the Army of the United States on 2 December 1968.
  - b. His DA Form 20 (Enlisted Qualification Record) in Item 41 (Awards and Decorations) – does not list the Army Commendation Medal.
  - c. He was honorably released from active duty on 7 July 1970. His DD Form 214 shows he completed 1 year, 7 months, and 6 days of active service, he was awarded or authorized:

- National Defense Service Medal
- Vietnam Service Medal
- Vietnam Campaign Medal
- Army Good Conduct Medal

d. A letter issued by U.S. Army Human Resources Command dated 1 August 2025 states a citation is not sufficient documentation for award of the Army Commendation Medal. Additionally, they were unable to locate orders authorizing the award.

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 and standard 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 to show the applicant was awarded the Army Commendation Medal for meritorious Service while in the Republic of Vietnam. Based on this, the Board granted relief.

BOARD VOTE:

<u>Mbr 1</u>	<u>Mbr 2</u>	<u>Mbr 3</u>	
XX	XX	XX	GRANT FULL RELIEF
:	:	:	GRANT PARTIAL RELIEF
:	:	:	GRANT FORMAL HEARING
:	:	:	DENY APPLICATION

BOARD DETERMINATION/RECOMMENDATION:

The Board determined the evidence presented is sufficient to warrant a recommendation for relief. As a result, the Board recommends that all Department of the Army records of the individual concerned be corrected by amending his DD Form 214 for the period ending 7 July 1970, by awarding him the Army Commendation Medal.



**X** //SIGNED//

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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) the Army Commendation Medal states 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.
3. Army Regulation 635-5 (Separation Documents) prescribed the separation documents that would be furnished each individual who was separated from the Army including Active-Duty Training personnel and established standardized procedures for the preparation and distribution of these documents. All available records would be used as a basis for the preparation of the DD Form 214, including DA Form 20, DA Form 66, and orders. In item 24, enter from item 21, all decorations, service medals, campaign credits, and badges awarded or authorized, omitting authorities cited therein.
4. 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.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//