

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: ██████████

BOARD DATE: 2 September 2025

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20250000017

APPLICANT REQUESTS: to correct his DD Form 214 (Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge) to show 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 that military records contain evidence confirming he sustained a gunshot wound to the head on 2 February 1966, while engaged in combat operations in Vietnam. He continues to carry shrapnel in his skull and has retained the helmet worn during the incident. He was previously unaware that a formal appeals process existed to request correction of his DD Form 214 and to pursue recognition through the award of the Purple Heart.
3. A review of the applicant's service record shows:
  - a. He enlisted into the Regular Army on 14 October 1963.
  - b. His DA Form 20 (Enlisted Qualification Record) shows he served in Vietnam from 8 July 1965 to 16 July 1966. It also shows:
    - Item 38 (Record of Assignments): Company C, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry, 8 July 1965 to 30 April 1966; HHC, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, USARPAC, 1 March 1966 to 16 July 1966
    - Item 40 (Wounds): Slightly wounded in head, 2 February 1966

- Item 41 (Awards and Decorations): Parachute Badge, Vietnam Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Combat Infantrymen's Badge, Sharpshooter Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-14)

c. His Standard Form 89 (Report of Medical Examination) dated 18 July 1966 annotated gunshot wound (GSW) scalp in January 1966, healed.

d. He was honorably released from active duty on 18 July 1966. His DD Form 214 shows he completed 2 years, 9 months and 5 days of active service. It also shows he was awarded or authorized:

- Marksman Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-14)
- Parachute Badge
- Combat Infantryman Badge
- National Defense Service Medal
- Vietnam Service Medal

4. A review of the applicant's record confirms he is eligible for campaign credits and awards omitted from his DD Form 214. The entries will be added to his DD Form 214 as administrative corrections and will not be considered by the Board.

5. The applicant's name is listed on the Vietnam casualty roster, a compilation of most of those who were wounded in Vietnam, which is used to verify eligibility for the Purple Heart.

6. A review of the Awards and Decorations Computer-Assisted Retrieval System, an index of general orders issued during the Vietnam era between 1965 and 1973 maintained by the Military Awards Branch of the U.S. Army Human Resources Command, failed to reveal any orders for award of the Purple Heart pertaining to the applicant.

**BOARD DISCUSSION:**

1. 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. The evidence of record shows the applicant enlisted in the Army on 14 October 1963 as an infantryman and subsequently deployed to Vietnam from 8 July 1965 to 16 July 1966. His record contains a DA Form 20 indicating he was slightly wounded in the head on 2 February 1966 and his name is listed on the Vietnam Casualty Roster. The Board determined the applicant met the criteria for award of the Purple Heart.
2. The case contains awards and campaign credits identified in the "administrative notes" of the record of proceedings that will be annotated on the applicant's DD Form 214.

BOARD VOTE:

<u>Mbr 1</u>	<u>Mbr 2</u>	<u>Mbr 3</u>	
XXX	XXX	XX	GRANT FULL RELIEF
:	:	:	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 awarding him the Purple Heart for injuries sustained in action on 2 February 1966.
2. The case contains awards and campaign credits identified in the "administrative notes" of the record of proceedings that will be annotated on the applicant's 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.

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE(S):

A review of the applicant's service records show he is authorized additional awards not annotated on his DD Form 214 for the service period ending 1 January 1972. As a result, correct his DD Form 214 to show:

- Presidential Unit Citation
- Valorous Unit Award
- Meritorious Unit Commendation
- Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation
- Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960)
- three bronze service stars with his previously awarded Vietnam Service Medal

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) provides Army policy, criteria, and administrative instructions concerning individual military decorations.

a. A bronze service star, based on qualifying service for each campaign listed in Appendix B of this regulation, will be worn on the appropriate service medal. A silver service star is authorized in lieu of five bronze service stars.

b. The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960) was awarded by the Government of Vietnam to all members of the Armed Forces of the United States for qualifying service in Vietnam during the period 1 March 1961 through 28 March 1973. Qualifying service included assignment in Vietnam for 6 months or more. Qualifying service outside the geographical limits of the Republic of Vietnam required the individual to provide direct combat support to the Republic of Vietnam and Armed Forces. Individuals who had qualified for award of the Vietnam Service Medal or the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and were evacuated prior to completing six months of service due to wounds resulting from hostile action were entitled to award of the Vietnam Campaign Medal.

c. The Purple Heart is awarded in the name of the President of the United States to any member of an Armed Force or any civilian national of the United States who, while serving under competent authority in any capacity with one of the U.S. Armed Services

after 5 April 1917, has been wounded or killed, or who has died or may hereafter die after, being wounded:

- In any action against an enemy of the United States
- In any action with an opposing armed force of a foreign country in which the Armed Forces of the U.S. are or have been engaged
- While serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the U.S. is not a belligerent party.
- As the result of an act of any such enemy of opposing Armed Forces
- As the result of an act of any hostile foreign force

3. The Purple Heart was established by General George Washington at Newburgh, NY on 7 August 1782 during the Revolutionary War. It was reestablished by the President of the United States per War Department General Orders Number 3 in 1932. It was awarded in the name of the President of the United States to any member of the Armed Forces or any civilian national of the United States who, while serving under competent authority in any capacity with one of the U.S. Armed Services after 5 April 1917, died or sustained wounds as a result of hostile action. Effective 19 May 1998, award of the Purple Heart is limited to members of the Armed Forces of the United States.

4. Department of the Army Pamphlet 672-3 (Unit Citation and Campaign Participation Credit Register) lists the awards received by units serving in Vietnam. This pamphlet shows the 327th Infantry, 1st Battalion, the unit to which the applicant was assigned, was cited for the following awards:

- Presidential Unit Citation for the period 2 Jun2 1966 to 20 June 1966, Department of the Army General Order (DAGO) Numbers 59, 1968
- Valorous Unit Award for the period of 17 January 1966 to 25 March 1966, DAGO Numbers 1, 1969, amended DAGO Numbers 17, 1968
- Meritorious Unit Commendation for the period 29 July 1965 to 31 1 October 1966, DAGO Number 1, 1969, amended DAGO 17, 1968
- Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation for the period 1 July 1966 to 31 July 1966, DAGO 21, 1969

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//