

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 26 August 2025

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20250001471

APPLICANT REQUESTS: correction of his DD Form 214 (Armed Forces of the U.S. Report of Transfer or Discharge) to show in:

- item 3 (Social Security Number) his social security number (SSN) as [REDACTED] vice [REDACTED]
- item 24 (Decorations, Medals, Badges, Commendations, Citations and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized) award of his Purple Heart

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- Social Security Card
- Purple Heart Certificate, 12 December 1968
- DD Form 214 (Armed Forces of the U.S. Report of Transfer or Discharge)

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 social security number (SSN) is incorrect on his DD Form 214 (Armed Forces of the U.S. Report of Transfer or Discharge). His Purple Heart should be added to his DD Form 215 (Correction to his DD Form 214).

3. The applicant provides the following:

a. A copy of his SSN card that lists his social security number as [REDACTED], the requested SSN.

b. A certificate that shows he was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds received in action on 10 December 1968, in Vietnam.

4. A review of the applicant's service records show:

a. He was inducted into the Army of the U.S. on 24 May 1967. His DD Form 47 (Record of Induction) does not list his SSN.

b. His DA Form 20 (Enlisted Qualification Record) shows in:

(1) item 31 (Foreign Service) – service in Vietnam from 9 December 1967 to 24 December 1968; he was assigned to Company C, 15th Medical Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division (Air Mobile), Vietnam, from 12 December 1967 to 20 December 1968; and he received "excellent" conduct and efficiency ratings.

(2) item 40 (Wounds) –

- fragment wound (FW) chest, 10 December 1968
- FW back, 19 May 1968

(3) item 41 (Awards, Decorations and Campaigns) – he was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Combat Medical Badge (revoked), Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960), and two overseas bars.

(4) item 42 (Remarks) – his SSN is listed as [REDACTED], the requested SSN.

c. He was honorably released from active duty on 23 December 1968. His DD Form 214 shows he completed 1 year, and 7 months of active-duty service. It also shows he was authorized or awarded:

- National Defense Service Medal
- Vietnam Service Medal
- Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960)
- Combat Medical Badge
- two Overseas Service Bars

d. item 30 (Remarks) lists administrative entries but not his service in Vietnam.

5. The service record is void of orders showing he was awarded the Purple Heart.

6. His records are void of any disciplinary actions or a commander's disqualification for award of the Army Good Conduct Medal for the period 24 May 1967 through 23 December 1968.

7. His 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. The entries under his name and service number confirm the date of casualty as 10 December 1968, and the major attributing cause code 'H' as the result of hostile enemy action in Vietnam.
8. A review of the Awards and Decorations Computer Assisted Retrieval System maintained by the U.S. Army Human Resources Command, which is an index of general orders issued during the Vietnam era between 1965 and 1973, failed to reveal any orders for the Purple Heart pertaining to the applicant.
9. A review of the applicant's record confirms he is eligible for awards, campaign credits and administrative entries that are not recorded on 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. The Board will consider award of the Purple Heart and Army Good Conduct Medal (1st Award).

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 was inducted in the Army of the United States on 24 May 1967 and subsequently deployed to Vietnam. His record contains documentation of a sustained wound from enemy action and a casualty report indicating he was wounded by a fragment to his chest on 10 December 1968. As a result, the Board determined the applicant met the criteria for award of the Purple Heart.
2. ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES: A review of the applicant's records show he was awarded or authorized the following awards and administrative corrections not reflected on his DD Form 214 for the service period ending 23 December 1968. As a result, amend his DD Form 214 to show:
 - Item 3 (Social Security): [REDACTED]
 - Item one silver service star to his previously awarded Vietnam Service Medal
 - Meritorious Unit Commendation (2nd Award)
 - Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation
 - Item 30 (Remarks): "Service in Vietnam from 9 December 1967 to 24 December 1968"

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 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 10 December 1968
- Adding to his DD Form 214, for the period ending 23 December 1968: Purple Heart Medal and the Army Good Conduct Medal

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 records show he was awarded or authorized the following awards and administrative corrections not reflected on his DD Form 214 for the service period ending 23 December 1968. As a result, amend his DD Form 214 to show:

- Item 3 (Social Security): [REDACTED]

- one silver service star to his previously awarded Vietnam Service Medal
- Meritorious Unit Commendation (2nd Award)
- Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation
- Item 30 (Remarks): "Service in Vietnam from 9 December 1967 to 24 December 1968"

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 600-8-22 (Military Awards) prescribes Army policy, criteria, and administrative instructions concerning individual and unit military awards. The Purple Heart is awarded for a wound sustained in action against an enemy or as a result of hostile action. Substantiating evidence must be provided to verify the wound was the result of hostile action, the wound must have required treatment by a medical officer, and the medical treatment must have been made a matter of official record. The Purple Heart differs from all other decorations in that an individual is not "recommended" for the decoration; rather, he or she is entitled to it upon meeting specific criteria. A Purple Heart is authorized for the first wound suffered under conditions indicated above; an oak leaf cluster is awarded to be worn on the medal or ribbon for each subsequent award. Not more than one award will be made for more than one wound or injury received at the same instant or from the same missile, force, explosion, or agent.

4. U.S. Army Vietnam (USARV) Regulation 672-5-1 (Decorations and Awards), prescribed policies, responsibilities, and criteria for awards in order to insure prompt and proper recognition of individuals. The regulation stated:

a. The Purple Heart may be awarded to U.S. personnel who are wounded or killed in action as a direct result of enemy action.

b. A wound for which the award is made must have required treatment by a medical

officer and records of medical treatment for wounds or injuries received must have been made a matter of official record.

c. Authority to award the Purple Heart was delegated to hospital commanders. Further, it directed that all personnel treated and released within 24 hours would be awarded the Purple Heart by the organization to which the individual was assigned. Personnel requiring hospitalization in excess of 24 hours or evacuation from Vietnam would be awarded the Purple Heart directly by the hospital commander rendering treatment.

d. The Vietnam Service Medal was awarded to all service members of the Armed Forces of the United States for qualifying service in Vietnam after 3 July 1965 through 28 March 1973. Qualifying service included attachment to or assignment for 1 or more days with an organization participating in or directly supporting military operations. One bronze service star is authorized with the Vietnam Service Medal for each campaign during which a member was assigned or attached to and present for duty with a unit during the period in which it participated in combat or was under orders in the combat zone and served at a normal post of duty. A bronze service star is worn on the appropriate service ribbon, to include the Vietnam Service Medal, for each credited campaign. A silver service star is authorized in lieu of five bronze service stars.

e. The Army Good Conduct Medal was awarded for each 3 years of continuous enlisted active Federal military service completed on or after 27 August 1940; for 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 immediate commander made a positive recommendation for its award and until the awarding authority announced the award in general orders.

5. 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 unit to which the applicant was assigned was cited for the following awards:

- Meritorious Unit Commendation for the period 1 June 1967 to 31 May 1968, Department of the Army General Order (DAGO) Number 28, 1969; and 1 June 1968 to 30 November 1969, DAGO 2, 1971
- Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation for the period 9 August 1965 to 19 May 1960, DAGO 59, 1969

6. Army Regulation 635-8 (Separation Processing and Documents) currently in effect prescribes policy and procedural guidance relating to transition management. It consolidates the policies, principles of support, and standards of service regarding processing personnel for transition. Paragraph 5-6 (Rules for completing the DD Form 214) provides detailed instructions for data required in each block of the DD Form 214.

- item 3, Social Security Number, verify accuracy by reviewing initial enlistment contract and/or application for appointment. If the Soldier has had more than one social security number, list the other social security number of record in block 18 (Remarks)
- item 24, List all federally recognized awards and decorations for all periods of service
- item 30, for active-duty Soldiers deployed with their unit during their continuous period of active service, enter "SERVICE IN (NAME OF COUNTRY DEPLOYED) FROM (inclusive date)"

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//