

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS  
AIR FORCE BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2012-00078  
COUNSEL: NONE  
HEARING DESIRED: YES

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APPLICANT REQUESTS THAT:

1. He be awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC).
2. He be awarded the First Oak Leaf Cluster (OLC) to his Air Medal (AM).
3. His DD Form 214, *Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge*, be corrected to reflect his Vietnam service, rather than Southeast Asia (SEA) - **administratively corrected**.
4. He be awarded awards and decorations for being assigned to the 606<sup>th</sup> Special Operations Squadron for the period of May through Dec 68 - **administratively corrected**.

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APPLICANT CONTENDS THAT:

He was attached to the 606<sup>th</sup> Special Operations Squadron flying combat missions in Laos and North Vietnam. He provides documentation that shows his service in Vietnam. After completing a tour in Germany, he discovered that he had not received the DFC award. He queried the awards official to find out what happened to his award and was assured the recommendation had been sent to 7<sup>th</sup> Air Force; where it apparently went missing. It bothers him that his records were never updated and he would like them fixed now.

In support of his request, the applicant provides a personal statement, and excerpts from his master personnel file, to include a citation for the award of the DFC.

His complete submission, with attachments, is at Exhibit A.

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STATEMENT OF FACTS:

The applicant retired from the Regular Air Force on 30 Sep 73 after serving 20 years, 6 months, and 25 days on active duty.

AFPC/DPSIDR was able to verify the applicant's records should be updated with the following awards:

Presidential Unit Citation (PUC)  
Vietnam Service Medal with one Silver Service Star (VSM  
w/1 SSS)  
Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm (RVNGC w/P)  
Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal (RVCM)

On 8 May 12, AFPC/DPAPP advised the applicant they were able to confirm his boots on ground foreign service time at Nakhon Phanom Royal Thai Air Force Base, Thailand, and that while assigned in Thailand, he flew numerous combat mission into the Republic of Vietnam during the period of 23 May 1968 to 30 September 1968.

The DFC criteria: This medal is awarded to any officer or enlisted person of the Armed Forces of the United States who shall have distinguished her/himself in actual combat in support of operations by heroism or this medal is awarded to any officer or enlisted person of the Armed Forces of the United States who shall have distinguished her/himself in actual combat in support of operations by heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in an aerial flight, subsequent to November 11, 1918.

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AIR FORCE EVALUATION:

AFPC/DPSIDR recommends denial. With regard to the applicant's request to be awarded the DFC, DPSIDR notes that the DFC is not awarded for sustained operational activities and flights. Based on the evidence of record, they believe the AM was approved and the DFC was disapproved. Further, due to the fact the applicant has already received the AM for the inclusive dates of 23 May 68 to 30 Sep 68; if he received the DFC it would constitute dual recognition as his actions on 22 Jul 68 were incorporated in the inclusive period of the AM. Addressing the applicant's request to be awarded the AM 1/OLC, the applicant did not provide any documentation that supports this request. In addition, the applicant has not exhausted all administrative avenues and his package is incomplete.

The complete DPSIDR evaluation is at Exhibit B.

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APPLICANT'S REVIEW OF AIR FORCE EVALUATION:

The applicant agrees with the DPSIDR evaluation that there is no signed recommendation for the DFC. He should have followed up on his original requests for this award, but as he has mentioned before, his duties at his new assignment led him to shelve the matter. However, he did try to contact his aircraft commander

who informed him that he had been recommended for the DFC. Further, the long passage of time really goes against his request for the DFC and he only blames himself for not zealously pursuing the matter sooner.

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit E.

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THE BOARD CONCLUDES THAT:

1. The applicant has exhausted all remedies provided by existing law or regulations.
2. The application was not timely filed; however, it is in the interest of justice to excuse the failure to timely file.
3. Insufficient relevant evidence has been presented to demonstrate the existence of an error or injustice. We took notice of the applicant's complete submission in judging the merits of the case; however, we agree with the opinion and recommendation of the Air Force office of primary responsibility and adopt its rationale as the basis for our conclusion that relief beyond that already granted administratively is not warranted. The military member's honorable service is noted. Regrettably, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, we find no basis to recommend granting the requested relief.
4. The applicant's case is adequately documented and it has not been shown that a personal appearance with or without counsel will materially add to our understanding of the issues involved. Therefore, the request for a hearing is not favorably considered.

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THE BOARD DETERMINES THAT:

The applicant be notified that the evidence presented did not demonstrate the existence of material error or injustice; that the application was denied without a personal appearance; and that the application will only be reconsidered upon the submission of newly discovered relevant evidence not considered with this application.

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The following members of the Board considered AFBCMR Docket Number BC-2012-00078 in Executive Session on 24 Jul 12, under the provisions of AFI 36-2603:

Panel Chair  
Member  
Member

The following documentary evidence for Docket Number BC-2012-00078 was considered:

- Exhibit A. DD Form 149, dated 9 Dec 11, w/atchs.
- Exhibit B. Applicant's Master Personnel Records.
- Exhibit C. Letter, AFPC/DPSIDR, dated 23 May 12.
- Exhibit D. Letter, SAF/MRBR, dated 8 Jun 12.
- Exhibit E. Letter, Applicant, dated 15 Jun 12.

Panel Chair