

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
AIR FORCE BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2012-00176
COUNSEL: NONE
HEARING DESIRED: NO

APPLICANT REQUESTS THAT:

He be awarded the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (AFEM).

APPLICANT CONTENDS THAT:

He is entitled to the AFEM for his participation in Operation BLUE BAT. He was discharged in 1960, prior to the establishment of the AFEM; therefore, it was not included on his DD Form 214, *Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge*, at the time of discharge.

In support of the applicant's appeal, he provides a copy of his DD Form 214 and Special Order Number 168.

The applicant's complete submission, with attachments, is at Exhibit A.

STATEMENT OF FACTS:

The applicant enlisted in the Regular Air Force on 8 August 1956.

On 3 March 1960, the applicant was honorably released from active duty and transferred to the Air Force Reserve. He served 3 years, 6 months and 26 days on active duty and credited with 2 years, 7 months and 3 days of foreign and/or sea service.

AIR FORCE EVALUATION:

AFPC/DPSIDR recommends denial. DPSIDR states the AFEM is awarded to members of the United States Armed Forces who, after 1 July 1958, have participated in a United States military operation and encountered foreign armed opposition, or were in danger of hostile action by foreign Armed Forces.

The AFEM is awarded for participation in Operation BLUE BAT, specifically Lebanon, from 1 July 1958 to 1 November 1958.

The applicant provided a temporary duty (TDY) Special Order 168, for the purpose of participating in Operation BLUE BAT on or about 17 July 1958; however, DPSIDR was unable to verify that the applicant was actually deployed in support of Operation BL2UE BAT.

Without official documentation verifying the applicant completed the TDY, he is not entitled to the AFEM.

The DPSIDR complete evaluation is at Exhibit C.

APPLICANT'S REVIEW OF AIR FORCE EVALUATION:

The applicant states orders initiating BLUE BAT action were TDY orders and as such do not require return orders. These orders state "...proceed on or about 17 July 1958 to such places as may be necessary to accomplish this mission, and upon completion of duty, will return to proper organization and station..."

He further states he was deployed and active for the full duration of Operation BLUE BAT. He received the Good Conduct Medal for the period 8 August 1956 to 7 August 1959. This verifies that he complied with all orders during that period including TDY orders for deployment to Operation BLUE BAT.

The applicant's complete response, with attachments is at Exhibit E.

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. Sufficient relevant evidence has been presented to demonstrate the existence of an error or injustice. After reviewing the evidence of record and the applicant's submission we believe that relief is warranted. We note that the applicant provided a temporary duty special order for the purpose of participating in Operation Blue Bat on or about 17 July 1958. The Air Force has no evidence that this order was cancelled, and none that would indicate the applicant did not perform the duty as ordered. We believe the evidence provided is sufficient to support the applicant's claim and that he did participate in

Operation Blue Bat as ordered. Therefore, we recommend that his records be corrected as indicated below.

THE BOARD DETERMINES THAT:

The pertinent military records of the Department of the Air Force relating to APPLICANT be corrected to show that he was awarded the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (AFEM).

The following members of the Board considered AFBCMR Docket Number BC-2012-00176 in Executive Session on 28 June 2012, under the provisions of AFI 36-2603:

All members voted to correct the records as recommended. The following documentary evidence pertaining to AFBCMR Docket Number BC-2012-00176 was considered:

- Exhibit A. DD Form 149, dated 29 December 2011, w/atchs.
- Exhibit B. Applicant's Master Personnel Records.
- Exhibit C. Letter, AFPC/DPSIDR, dated 7 March 2012.
- Exhibit D. Letter, SAF/MRBR, dated 26 March 2012.
- Exhibit E. Letter, Applicant, dated 4 April 2012, w/atchs.