

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
AIR FORCE BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2012-00178

COUNSEL: NONE

HEARING DESIRED: NOT INDICATED

APPLICANT REQUESTS THAT:

His DD Form 214, *Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge*, be corrected as follows:

1. Reflect his Vietnam Service.
 2. Reflect award of the Vietnam Service Medal (VSM).
 3. Reflect award of the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Valor device (AFOUA w/V). **ADMINISTRATIVELY CORRECTED**
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APPLICANT CONTENDS THAT:

He was stationed at Ching Chuan Kang Air Base, Taiwan from 16 July 1969 thru 8 October 1970. During that timeframe he participated in three temporary duty (TDY) assignments to the Republic of Vietnam. On his first TDY to Tan Son Nhut Air Base in late November 1969, he crew-chiefed several planes and stayed in the transit barracks behind the civilian air terminal involved in OPERATION MENU. They hauled Agent Orange in big rubber bladders. He was in Saigon 22 thru 23 February 1970, when the United States embassy was attacked four blocks away from where they were stationed. During his second TDY to Vietnam in April 1970, they evacuated refugees and he was involved in the invasion of Cambodia and almost died on April 6th in a rocket attack on Saigon. On his third TDY, he returned to Saigon and was involved in OPERATION JEFFERSON GLENN. His pay records show combat and hazardous duty pay for 8-9 months in 1970. He needs to verify Vietnam service for assignment of proper awards, medals and veteran's benefits.

In support of his request, the applicant provides a personal statement, a copy of a document extracted from his military personnel records and a notarized letter from a former coworker attesting to his service in the Republic of Vietnam.

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

STATEMENT OF FACTS:

The applicant is a former member of the Regular Air Force who served from 4 December 1968 to 1 December 1972. He was trained and served as an Aircraft Maintenance Specialist and was progressively promoted to the rank of Sergeant (Sgt) with a pay grade of (E-4) effective 1 December 1970. He was released from active duty with an honorable characterization of service and credited with serving 3 years, 11 months and 28 days of active duty service which includes 1 year, 3 months and 1 day of Foreign and/or Sea Service.

The applicant's DD Form 214 does not reflect service in Vietnam nor award of the VSM or AFOUA w/V.

By letter dated 25 April 2012, AFPC/DPSIDR advised the applicant they had made a thorough review of his official military personnel record and provided documents and verified his entitlement to the AFOUA w/V. They were unable to locate documentation in his record to verify his entitlement to the VSM (see Exhibit B).

AIR FORCE EVALUATIONS:

AFPC/DPAPP recommends denial. DPAPP states a review of the applicant's Master Personnel Record and documentation submitted failed to provide any documents that substantiated Foreign Service time in Vietnam. They were able to verify and confirm boots on the ground at Chin Chuan Kang Air Base, Taiwan, from 16 July 1969 to 8 October 1970, for 1 year, 2 months and 23 days.

The complete AFPC/DPAPP evaluation is at Exhibit C.

AFPC/DPSIDR recommends denial. DPSIDR states they were able to verify the applicant's entitlement to one of the requested awards. Through separate correspondence (see Exhibit B) the applicant was advised he was ineligible for entitlement to the VSM. The Directorate of Assignments was unable to confirm the applicant served in Vietnam. No documentation was provided to verify the applicant served in Vietnam, or any area for which the VSM is authorized for the specified period of time.

The VSM criterion: The VSM is awarded to all service members of the Armed Forces who between the period of 4 July 1965 and 28 March 1973, served on temporary duty for 30 consecutive days or 60 nonconsecutive days in the following areas of Southeast Asia: In Vietnam and contiguous waters and airspace; in Thailand, Laos or Cambodia or the airspace thereof and in the direct support of military operations in Vietnam.

The complete AFPC/DPSIDR evaluation is at Exhibit D.

APPLICANT'S REVIEW OF AIR FORCE EVALUATION:

The applicant reiterates his previous contentions and adds more details of his TDY missions. He states that the day he was released from active duty, the personnel specialist processing his records asked if everything was correct. He said "no." The personnel specialist told him it was 4:00 p.m. and he didn't have time to change all the paperwork today. He wrote VSM on the form and told him to sign the form and he would correct the paperwork the next day. The applicant includes documents extracted from his military personnel records, earnings document, a pay chart, and copies of newspaper clippings and photographs relating to his Vietnam service.

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

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 error or injustice. We believe a reasonable basis exists to conclude the applicant served in Vietnam based on the applicant's temporary duty (TDY) travel schedule in support of 314th OMS missions and AFPC/DPAPP'S confirmation of his foreign service at Chin Chuan Kang Air Base, Taiwan for the period from 16 July 1969 through 8 October 1970, the sworn statement of his former military coworker, and photographs confirming his presence at Tan Son Nhut Air Base, Vietnam. We find the evidence sufficient to resolve any doubt we might have in this matter in favor of the applicant. Therefore, to avoid a possible injustice and in recognition of his service to the Nation, we recommend his records be corrected as indicated below. We note the applicant's record will be administratively corrected to reflect his award of the AFOUA w/V.
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.

THE BOARD RECOMMENDS THAT:

The pertinent military records of the Department of the Air Force relating to APPLICANT be corrected to show that:

a. He had boots on the ground in Tan Son Nhut Air Base, Vietnam, from; 30 November 1969, through 4 March 1970, 1 April 1970 through 1 August 1970, and 15 August 1970 through 30 November 1970.

b. He was awarded the Vietnam Service Medal.

The following members of the Board considered this application BC-2012-00178 in Executive Session on 11 September 2012, under the provisions of AFI 36-2603:

Panel Chair
Member
Member

The following documentary evidence was considered:

- Exhibit A. DD Form 149 dated 3 March 2012, w/atchs.
- Exhibit B. Applicant's Master Personnel Records.
- Exhibit C. Letter, AFPC/DPAPP, dated 19 March 2012
- Exhibit D. Letter, AFPC/DPSIDR, dated 25 April 2012.
- Exhibit E. Letter, SAF/MRBR, dated 7 May 2012.
- Exhibit F. Letter, Applicant, dated 22 May 2012, w/atchs.

Panel Chair