

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
AIR FORCE BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2012-00266

COUNSEL: Veteran of Foreign Wars

HEARING DESIRED: NO

APPLICANT REQUESTS THAT:

1. His records be corrected to reflect award of the Bronze Star Medal (BSM).
2. His records be corrected to reflect award of the Combat Readiness Medal (CRM).

APPLICANT CONTENDS THAT:

1. He was recommended for award of the BSM and while others were approved for the award his recommendation was arbitrarily and unjustly disapproved. No lower medal was considered or awarded in place of the BSM, which substantiates his claim that he was unjustly denied recognition for his heroic efforts.
2. He met the criteria for award of the CRM, but was not recommended or submitted for the medal.

In support of the appeal, the applicant provides copies of two personal statements, Minutes of Command Awards and Decorations Board Meeting, dated 5 Nov 69, Bronze Star Medal Citation, Bronze Star Medal disapproval letter, Authorization to Wear the Combat Crew Members Badge, CRM criteria, AF Form 1042, *Medical Recommendation for Flying Duty* and a Non-Rated Individual Flight printout.

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

STATEMENT OF FACTS:

The applicant, while serving at Cam Ranh AB, Republic of North Vietnam, was recommended for the BSM. On 17 Nov 69, the Command awards and Decorations Board disapproved the recommendation and no award was awarded in lieu of the BSM.

On 11 May 11, AFPC/DPAPP informed the applicant they were able to confirm that he was assigned at DaNang, Vietnam from 29 Sep 65 to 4 Aug 66, and also verified that he was assigned in Japan from 5 Oct 64 to 28 Sep 65.

On 27 Sep 11, AFPC/DPSIDR notified the applicant that his records will be administratively corrected to reflect award of the Good Conduct Medal with three Bronze Loops (GCM w/3 BL) and the Korean War Service Medal (KWSM).

The BSM is awarded to any person who, after 6 Dec 41, while serving in any capacity with the Armed Forces of the United States, distinguishes himself or herself by heroism performed in ground combat if they are of lesser degree than that required for the Silver Star. It also recognizes single acts of merit and meritorious service if the achievement or service is of a lesser degree than that deemed worthy of the Legion of Merit, but such service must have been accomplished with distinction.

The CRM was created as a personal decoration ranking above the Commendation Medals, Lifesaving Medals and the Purple Heart, its current status has been changed to an achievement/service medal. It is awarded to members of the Regular Air Force and Air Force Reserve and to members of other services since 1 Aug 60, for sustained individual combat or mission readiness or preparedness for direct weapon-system employment. Specifically, a service member must meet the following criteria: complete an aggregate 24 months of sustained professional performance as a member of an Air Force combat or mission-ready unit subject to combat readiness reporting, or be individually certified as a combat or mission ready and have maintained individual readiness the entire period according to a major headquarters, or be subject to an individual positional and evaluation program according to a higher headquarters standard. The term "Combat Ready" is defined as being professionally and technically qualified in an aircraft crew position in an aircraft that can be used in combat.

The remaining relevant facts pertaining to this application are contained in the letter prepared by the appropriate office of the Air Force, which is attached at Exhibit C.

AIR FORCE EVALUATION:

AFPC/DPSIDR recommends denial regarding the applicant's request for award of the BSM and the CRM. The recommendation to award the BSM to the applicant was disapproved on 5 Nov 69 and no lesser award was recommended for approval in lieu of the BSM according to the disapproval letter.

The applicant provided no new evidence to support reconsideration for award of the BSM. Additionally, no recommendation for a one-

time reconsideration from the original approval authority was provided or located. The applicant must follow certain processing procedures to request reconsideration of the BSM.

In view of disapproval by the Command Awards and Decorations Board (CADB) and without a recommendation for reconsideration from the original approval authority, they must recommend disapproval of the request for the BSM.

Concerning the CRM, the applicant provided a personal statement attesting to his belief that he has met the criteria for the CRM, an order entitling him to wear the Combat Crew Members Badge (CCMB), a print-out from Wikipedia stating the CCMB was authorized to personnel accruing creditable service toward the CRM, a copy of the criteria for the CRM, AF Form 1042, dated 23 Jul 69, removing him from flying status and a copy of flight records dated 30 Apr 69. They were unable to locate official documentation in the applicant's military personnel records and none was provided, to substantiate that award of the CRM can be based on possession of the CCMB. Because of its open editing policy, Wikipedia cannot be used in place of official documentation.

The applicant does not allege and they were unable to locate official documentation that he was trained and in position to employ a direct weapons system. The applicant did not supply a copy of a commander's certification that he was serving in a unit subject to combat readiness reporting and subject to continuous individual positional evaluation program. USAF memorandum 031630Z, dated November 1983, defines continuous positional evaluations as evaluations that require the individual to meet the performance standards specified by major commands or higher headquarters, subject to daily, no-notice evaluations that could result in downgrading of the individual to non-mission/non-combat ready status.

The complete AFPC/DPSIDR evaluation is at Exhibit C.

APPLICANT'S REVIEW OF AIR FORCE EVALUATION:

Regarding the BSM, he objects to the phrase "contends he was recommended for the BSM," as the term appears to be used as a negative force and introduces the possibility of an assertion on his part. The fact is he was recommended for award of the BSM and believes the advisory opinion is one that favors dismissal of his request.

He makes no claim of heroic acts in ground combat and does not mention the Silver Star or Legion of Merit. He is not sure why the advisory opinion addresses these medals but believes it is an attempt to downplay his application. He emphasizes the many

negative terms used in the advisory opinion as tools to reinforce the rejection of his application in the minds of the Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records Board members.

He has provided the Board all of the evidence in his possession to support his request.

Regarding the CRM, he describes the units, missions and training he completed to qualify for the CRM. He completed more than the required 24-months of combat/mission readiness as evidenced by the award of the Combat Crew Members Badge (CCMB) in Mar 66 and the time of his physical disqualification for flying in Jul 69. He was awarded the Senior Aircrew Member wings as well as the Air Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters and believes this should indicate combat readiness.

As indicated by the advisory opinion, he provided a copy of AF Form 1042, *Medical Recommendation for Flying Duty*. He provided this evidence to note item #12, which identified him as a combat crew member, with a date of Jul 69. This form was intended to show the end-point of his combat readiness status while the start-point was Mar 66, a period of well over three years.

Please note Item 6 of the AF Form 1712, *Uniform Military Personnel Record*, where someone has circled CRM. He finds comments referencing Wikipedia not being fit to use because of its open editing policy distasteful. Such an observation might well be important in matters of National Security or other high-level affairs, but this is not the case.

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. Insufficient relevant evidence has been presented to demonstrate the existence of error or injustice regarding the applicant's request that his records be corrected to reflect award of the BSM and the CRM. We took notice of the applicant's complete submission, including his rebuttal to the advisory opinion, in judging the merits of the case; however, we agree with the opinion and recommendations of the Air Force office of primary responsibility (OPR) and adopt its rationale as the basis for our conclusion the applicant has not been the victim of an

error or injustice. We note the applicant's record will be administratively corrected to reflect award of the Good Conduct Medal with three Bronze Loops (GCM w/3 BL) and the Korean War Service Medal (KWSM). Therefore, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, we find no basis to recommend granting any relief beyond that rendered administratively.

THE BOARD DETERMINES THAT:

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

The following members of the Board considered AFBCMR Docket Number BC-2012-00266 in Executive Session on 4 Dec 12, under the provisions of AFI 36-2603:

Panel Chair
Member
Member

The following documentary evidence was considered:

- Exhibit A. DD Forms 149, dated 5 Jan 12, w/atchs.
- Exhibit B. Applicant's Master Personnel Records.
- Exhibit C. Letter, AFPC/DPSIDR, dated 14 Mar 12.
- Exhibit D. Letter, SAF/MRBR, dated 26 Mar 12.
- Exhibit E. Letter, Applicant, dated 6 Apr 12, w/atchs.

Panel Chair