

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
AIR FORCE BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2012-00294
COUNSEL: NONE
HEARING DESIRED: NO

APPLICANT REQUESTS THAT:

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

APPLICANT CONTENDS THAT:

The medal was commissioned in 1962 and he was discharged in 1960. Further, the medal was approved for the "Lebanon Crisis of 1958". He was an aircraft electrical technician assigned to the 512th Fighter Interceptor Squadron RAF Station, Bentwaters, England. His unit went on temporary duty to Incirlik AFB, Adana, Turkey, to provide air defense in support of ground operations during the crisis. He was at Incirlik for approximately six weeks performing electrical maintenance on his aircraft before returning to England.

In support of his request, the applicant provides a copy of his special orders, dated 5 Aug 58.

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

STATEMENT OF FACTS:

The applicant enlisted into the Regular Air Force on 20 Jun 56. He received an honorable discharge on 19 Jun 60 after serving 4 years on active duty.

The AFEM criteria: The AFEM is awarded to members of the United States Armed Forces who, after July 1, 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.

AIR FORCE EVALUATION:

AFPC/DPSIDR recommends denial. Although the applicant provides a copy of his Temporary Duty (TDY) Special Order 179 in support of his request, DPSIDR is unable to verify that the applicant actually deployed in support of Operation BLUE BAT. Therefore, without official documentation verifying that he completed the TDY, they are unable to verify his entitlement to the AFEM.

The complete DPSIDR evaluation is at Exhibit C.

APPLICANT'S REVIEW OF AIR FORCE EVALUATION:

The applicant has a hard time understanding the reasons for disapproving the AFEM. If he did not go TDY he would have disobeyed a direct order and would have been subject to discipline. Furthermore, if he had gone TDY to Incirlik and did not return, he would have been AWOL and subject to discipline. He believes that it comes down to his word without having positive verification via the specific travel order. In addition, the last week while at Incirlik he became sick with bowel problems. He was seen by a medic and given medicine to help control the problem. When he returned to Sembach, he went to the clinic and was diagnosed with amoebic dysentery that he contracted while TDY to Turkey. He provides a list of airman names that he worked with in Incirlik. His wife can also verify his TDY to Turkey.

The applicant's complete submission 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 error or injustice to warrant awarding the applicant the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal. While the applicant could not provide a copy of his travel voucher for the period in question, we find the special order provided sufficient to establish reasonable doubt the applicant did perform temporary duty in support of Operation "Blue Bat". Therefore, we elect to resolve any doubt we might have in favor of the applicant and recommend that his records be corrected as indicated below.

THE BOARD RECOMMENDS THAT:

The pertinent military records of the Department of the Air Force relating to APPLICANT be corrected to show that on 19 June 1960 he was awarded the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal.

The following members of the Board considered AFBCMR Docket Number BC-2012-00294 in Executive Session on 28 Jun 12, under the provisions of AFI 36-2603:

Panel Chair
Member
Member

All members voted to correct the records, as recommended. The following documentary evidence was considered:

- Exhibit A. DD Form 149, dated 2 Jan 12, w/atchs.
- Exhibit B. Applicant's Master Personnel Records.
- Exhibit C. Letter, AFPC/DPSIDR, dated 7 Mar 12.
- Exhibit D. Letter, SAF/MRBR, dated 21 Mar 12.
- Exhibit E. Letter, Applicant, dated 10 Apr 12.

Panel Chair