

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
AIR FORCE BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2012-00324
COUNSEL: NONE
HEARING DESIRED: YES

APPLICANT REQUESTS THAT:

His DD Form 214, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*, reflect award of the Air Force Commendation Medal (AFCM).

APPLICANT CONTENDS THAT:

Award of the AFCM is not annotated on his DD Form 214. After his separation from the Air Force he received the citation for award of the AFCM in the mail.

In support of his request, the applicant submits a copy of a citation for award of the AFCM and a copy of his DD Form 214.

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

STATEMENT OF FACTS:

The applicant enlisted in the Regular Air Force on 18 March 1965.

On 6 September 1968, the applicant was honorably released from active duty and transferred to the Air Force Reserve. He served 3 years, 5 months, and 19 days on active duty with 2 years, 5 months and 29 days of foreign and/or sea service.

AIR FORCE EVALUATION:

AFPC/DPSIDRA recommends denial. DPSIDRA states the AFCM is awarded to members of the Armed Forces of the United States who, while serving in any capacity with the Air Force after 24 March 1958, shall have distinguished themselves by meritorious achievement and service. The degree of merit must be distinctive, though not involve the voluntary risk of life required for the Soldier's Medal (or the Airman's Medal now authorized for the Air Force) may be considered for the AFCM.

The applicant has provided a copy of the AFCM citation; however, this certificate is questionable in nature. The citation contains spelling errors and is very generic. This citation appears to be a template as it does not actually speak of any one accomplishment in any specific detail that the applicant was credited for during his time in Vietnam. Special Order authorizing entitlement to the AFCM was not provided by the applicant nor located within his official military record. Unfortunately, without a copy of the Special Order, DPSIDRA is unable to verify the applicant's entitlement to the AFCM.

DPSIDRA was able to verify the applicant's entitlement to the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Valor and One Oak Leaf Cluster (AFOUA w/V & 1 OLC), four Bronze Service Stars to his previously awarded Vietnam Service Medal (VSM w/4 BSS), and the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm (RVNGC w/P). The applicant's record will be updated by the appropriate office.

The DPSIDR complete evaluation is at Exhibit C.

APPLICANT'S REVIEW OF AIR FORCE EVALUATION:

The applicant states many of his comrades in the 1876th Communications Squadron who were deemed to have performed in an outstanding manner and did not experience disciplinary action received the AFCM on the same kind of form and worded similarly. He is very disturbed by what the advisory appears to suggest - that the certificate is questionable in nature. This implies that the document is not genuine. Before he left Vietnam he was informed that he would be receiving the AFCM. This document was prepared by the Air Force and mailed to him over 40 years ago.

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 an error or injustice. The applicant's contentions are duly noted; 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 the applicant has not been the victim of an error

or injustice. Therefore, other than the administrative corrections (AFOUA w/V & 1 OLC, VSM w/4 BSS, and the RVNGC w/P) made to his records, we find no basis to recommend granting the remaining relief sought in this application. If he were to submit additional documentation (i.e. copy of the special order awarding the AFCM, signed certificate, or statement from chain of command awarding the AFCM) we would be willing to reconsider his appeal. Therefore, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, we find no basis to grant 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.

THE BOARD DETERMINES THAT:

The applicant be notified the evidence presented did not demonstrate the existence of an 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-2012-00324 in Executive Session on 11 September 2012, under the provisions of AFI 36-2603:

The following documentary evidence pertaining to AFBCMR Docket Number BC-2012-00324 was considered:

- Exhibit A. DD Form 149, dated 1 November 2011, w/atchs.
- Exhibit B. Applicant's Master Personnel Records.
- Exhibit C. Letter, AFPC/DPSIDRA, dated 7 March 2012.
- Exhibit D. Letter, SAF/MRBR, dated 21 March 2012.
- Exhibit E. Letter, Applicant, dated 28 March 2012, w/atchs.