

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
AIR FORCE BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2012-00448
COUNSEL: NONE
HEARING DESIRED: NO

APPLICANT REQUESTS THAT:

1. He be awarded an additional Oak Leaf Cluster (OLC) to his Air Medal (AM).
2. He be awarded an additional Oak Leaf Cluster (OLC) to his Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC).

APPLICANT CONTENDS THAT:

He left Burma before they got around to issuing orders and believes he should have received an OLC to both the DFC and AM. At that time, it was customary to receive awards for every 100 combat hours; at the 300th hour an AM would be awarded and at the 400th hour a DFC would be awarded.

In support of his request, the applicant provides a hand written note, a copy of his WD AGO Form 100, *Separation Qualification Record*, and a document that shows his name, his unit, and lists the awards and decorations authorized to be worn.

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

STATEMENT OF FACTS:

Applicant is a former member of the Army Air Force who served on active duty from 13 Apr 43 through 18 Oct 45, as a radio operator and mechanic and participated in the India-Burma, China and Central Burma battles and campaigns.

The applicant's WD AGO Form 100 indicates he completed a total of 900 combat hours.

The applicant's discharge certificate reflects he received the DFC with one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster; a Good Conduct Medal, and an AM with two Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters.

If the applicant's official military personnel file was on file at the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC), it would have

been in the area that suffered the most damage in the fire on 12 Jul 1973.

The DFC was established in the Air Corps Act (Act of Congress, 2 July 1926, Public Law No. 446, 69th Congress). This act provided for award "to any person, while serving in any capacity with the Air Corps of the Army of the United States, including the National Guard and the Organized Reserves, or with the United States Navy, since the 6th day of April 1917, has distinguished, or who, after the approval of this Act, distinguishes himself by heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in an aerial flight."

The AM is awarded to U.S. military and civilian personnel for single acts of heroism or meritorious achievements while participating in aerial flight and foreign military personnel in actual combat in support of operations. Required achievement is less than that required for the Distinguished Flying Cross, but must be accomplished with distinction above and beyond that expected of professional airmen. It is not awarded for peace time sustained operational activities and flights. Approval or disapproval authority is delegated to major command commanders or vice commanders for military and secretary of the Air Force for civilians and foreign military personnel. MAJCOMs will identify the missions and positions that qualify for this award. HQ USAF/XO must certify MAJCOM criteria.

During the period under review, the Numbered Air Force to which the applicant was assigned, i.e., Tenth Air Force had an established policy of awarding a DFC upon the completion of every 200 combat hours and an AM upon the completion of every 100 combat hours.

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

AIR FORCE EVALUATION:

AFPC/DPSIDR recommends denial. There were no additional decoration elements to include the special order, signed certificate, and the citation nor were any documents located in the applicant's military record. The applicant's WD AGO Form 100 reflects he had 900 hours in combat; however, it cannot be determined if the applicant has already received credit for all 900 flying hours due to his records being damaged in the fire of 1973. The document provided by the applicant shows his name, his unit, and the awards/decorations that are authorized, which reflects both the DFC w/1 OLC and AM w/2 OLC with Special Order GO-163, 11 July 1945.

The complete DPSIDR evaluation is at Exhibit C.

APPLICANT'S REVIEW OF AIR FORCE EVALUATION:

A copy of the Air Force evaluation was forwarded to the applicant on 10 Apr 12 for review and comment within 30 days. As of this date, this office has received no response.

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 an additional DFC. In this respect, the applicant's records contain a WD AGO Form 100, Separation Document, indicating that he had a total of 900 combat hours while assigned to the 10th Air Force. Based on the evidence of record and that provided by the applicant, it appears the applicant has been awarded credit for 700 of the 900 hours of combat, based on the criteria at the time. Therefore, in view of this, we believe it would be in the interest of justice to award him an additional DFC because his remaining 200 combat hours meet the criteria for this recognition. Therefore, we recommend that his records be corrected as indicated below.
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THE BOARD RECOMMENDS THAT:

The pertinent military records of the Department of the Air Force relating to APPLICANT be corrected to show that on 18 October 1945, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flights as a radio operator and mechanic during the India-Burma, China and Central Burma battles and campaigns.

The following members of the Board considered AFBCMR Docket Number BC-2012-00448 in Executive Session on 24 Jul 12, under the provisions of AFI 36-2603:

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

- Exhibit A. DD Form 149, dated 6 Feb 12, w/atchs.
- Exhibit B. Applicant's Master Personnel Records.
- Exhibit C. Letter, AFPC/DPSIDR, dated 27 Mar 12.
- Exhibit D. Letter, SAF/MRBR, dated 10 Apr 12.

Panel Chair