

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
AIR FORCE BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2012-00501
COUNSEL: None
HEARING DESIRED: No

APPLICANT REQUESTS THAT:

His DD Form 214, *Report of Separation from the Armed Forces of the United States*, be corrected to reflect the following:

1. He was awarded the Korean Service Medal (KSM) with Seven Bronze Service Stars (w/7BSS) and the Arrowhead Device for his service with the 85th Troop Carrier Squadron.
 2. Block 5, *Qualifications*, reflect the correct "symbol" for his being a crew chief and flight engineer.
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APPLICANT CONTENDS THAT:

He was not given full credit or entitlement to additional Bronze Service Stars for his KSM. He was with the 85th Troop Carrier Squadron, 437th Troop Carrier Group from the beginning (10 Aug 50) to 8 May 52. He participated in all seven campaigns in Korea for which the 437th received credit.

In support of his appeal, the applicant provides a personal statement, copies of his DD Form 214, and other documents from his personnel records, and correspondence between he and AFPC and with the National Personnel Records Center.

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

STATEMENT OF FACTS:

The applicant's military personnel records were destroyed in the fire in 1973 at the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC).

According to the applicant's WD AGO 53, he commenced his initial tour of active duty with the Army Air Corps on 24 Jul 46 and served on active duty until 20 Jul 49 when he was honorably discharged and credited with 2 years, 11 months, and 27 days of total active service.

According to a typewritten notation on the applicant's honorable discharge certificate, he enlisted in the Air Force Reserve on 8 Jul 50 for a period of three years. On 10 Aug 50, the applicant was called to active duty for a period of 21 months.

According to the applicant's DD Form 214, *Report of Separation from the Armed Forces of the United States*, on 8 May 52, he was released from active duty and credited with 1 year, 8 months, and 29 days of active service; one year, five months, and nine days of which were credited as foreign service. His DD Form 214 reflects that his primary unit of assignment during this period of service was the 85th Troop Carrier Squadron.

On 4 May 11, AFPC/DPSIDRA notified the applicant that while they were able to verify that he was assigned to the 85th Troop Carrier Squadron, and the 85th Troop Carrier Squadron was entitled to seven Service Stars and one Bronze Arrowhead device for participation in seven campaigns and one airborne attack in Korea from 8 Nov 50 through 10 Jun 52, they were unable to verify the duration of the applicant's assignment to this unit because his records were destroyed in the fire at NPRC in 1973.

On 30 Oct 12, AFPC/DPSOR advised the applicant that Block 5 of his DD form 214 was correctly accomplished at his separation and that his Air Force Specialty Code (AFSC) as indicated is correct. They also advised the applicant that the title of "Crew Chief" was a general term used throughout the Air Force Maintenance community and does not have an official AFSC Title.

AIR FORCE EVALUATION:

AFPC/DPAPP recommends denial of the applicant's request for credit for foreign service in Korea. A review of his Master Personnel Records and documentation submitted failed to provide any evidence that substantiates foreign service time in Korea.

A complete copy of the AFPC/DPAPP evaluation is at Exhibit C.

AFPC/DPSID recommends denial of the applicant's request for additional Bronze Service Stars and an Arrowhead Device for his KSM. While they could confirm the 85th Troop Carrier Squadron (TCS) was credited with participating in several campaigns as well as an assault landing credit for an airborne attack, they were unable to confirm the applicant was assigned during the period of eligibility for the additional Bronze Service Stars and Arrowhead Device.

A complete copy of the AFPC/DPSID evaluation is at Exhibit D.

APPLICANT'S REVIEW OF AIR FORCE EVALUATIONS:

Copies of the Air Force advisories were forwarded to the applicant on 14 Nov 12 for review and response within 30 days (Exhibit E). To date, a response has not been received.

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 with respect to the applicant's request to have his record corrected to reflect he served as a crew chief and flight engineer. After a thorough review of the evidence of record and the applicant's complete submission, we are not convinced that his records are in error. In this respect, we agree with the determination of the Air Force office of primary responsibility (OPR) indicating the applicant's DD Form 214 accurately reflects the specialty in which he served and that the term "Crew Chief" was a general term used throughout the Air Force Maintenance community and does not have an official AFSC Title. Therefore, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, we find no basis to recommend granting this aspect of the applicant's request.

4. Notwithstanding the above, we believe the substantial evidence indicates that corrective action is warranted with respect to the applicant's request to be credited with seven bronze service stars and an arrowhead device for his previously awarded Korean Service Medal (KSM). In this respect, we note that while the Air Force OPR was unable to confirm the exact duration of the applicant's assignment with the 85th Troop Carrier Squadron, we find it substantially more likely than not that he served with the noted unit during the period for which it was credited with participating in seven campaigns and an airborne attack. In this respect, we note the applicant has provided a supporting statement from a fellow veteran attesting to his presence during the period under review. Furthermore, we note the applicant was involuntarily mobilized, presumably for the purpose of participating in the Korean Conflict, and find it likely that he served with the 85th Troop Carrier Squadron for the duration of his 17-month overseas tour in support of this national emergency. Therefore, in view of the above, we find sufficient evidence to resolve any doubt in this matter in the applicant's favor and recommend his records be corrected as indicated below.

THE BOARD RECOMMENDS THAT:

The pertinent military records of the Department of the Air Force relating to the APPLICANT be corrected to reflect that he was awarded the Korean Service Medal (KSM) with one silver service star, two bronze service stars, and one bronze arrowhead device.

The following members of the Board considered AFBCMR Docket Number BC-2012-00501 in Executive Session on 27 Nov 12, under the provisions of AFI 36-2603:

Chair
Member
Member

The following documentary evidence was considered:

- Exhibit A. DD Form 149, dated 20 Jan 12, w/atchs.
- Exhibit B. Applicant's Master Personnel Records.
- Exhibit C. Letter, AFPC/DPAPP, dated 20 Apr 12.
- Exhibit D. Letter, AFPC/DPSIDR, dated 24 Sep 12.
- Exhibit E. Letter, SAF/MRBR, dated 14 Nov 12.

Panel Chair