

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS  
AIR FORCE BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

IN THE MATTER OF: DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2012-00683  
COUNSEL: NONE  
HEARING DESIRED: NO

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APPLICANT REQUESTS THAT:

His records be corrected to reflect his foreign service in Vietnam (administratively resolved) and award of the Humanitarian Service Medal (HSM).

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APPLICANT CONTENDS THAT:

He is entitled to the HSM because he was involved in rescuing and evacuating refugees from Vietnam.

In support of his request, the applicant provides a copy of his DD Form 214, *Report of Separation from Active Duty*, excerpts from the DoD Financial Management Regulation, Executive Order 11965, and Security Operating Instruction 207-44.

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

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STATEMENT OF FACTS:

On 8 Sep 72, the applicant contracted his enlistment in the Regular Air Force.

The HSM was authorized by Executive Order 11965, 19 Jan 77. It was established to honor personnel of the Armed Forces of the United States who distinguished themselves by meritorious direct participation (hands on) in a significant military act or operation of a humanitarian nature, or have rendered a service to mankind. Specifically excluded from eligibility are service members or elements remaining at a geographically separated location or to a location and did not make a direct contribution to influence the action.

The applicant's performance reports reflect he served at Clark Air Base, Philippines from 21 Oct 74 through 12 Aug 75.

There were two humanitarian operations being conducted during the period in question: Operations BABY LIFT (OBL) and NEW LIFE (ONL).

On 4 May 12, AFPC/DPAPP informed the applicant his boots on ground service in the Republic of Philippines and the Republic of Vietnam had been confirmed and verified.

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AIR FORCE EVALUATION:

AFPC/DPSIDR recommends denial of the applicant's request for the HSM. While the Directorate of Assignments verified the applicant performed temporary duty in Vietnam from 22 Apr 75 to 23 Apr 75 as an aircraft escort; there was no official documentation in the applicant's submission or the evidence of record indicating that he served in direct support of either OBL or ONL.

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

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APPLICANT'S REVIEW OF AIR FORCE EVALUATION:

A copy of the Air Force evaluation was forwarded to the applicant 8 Jun 12, for review and comment within 30 days (Exhibit D). As of this date, no response has been received by this office.

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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 regarding the applicant's request for the Humanitarian Service Medal (HSM). We took notice of the applicant's complete submission in judging the merits of the case; 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 the applicant has not been the victim of an error or injustice. In regard to his request for service credit in Vietnam, AFPC/DPAPP verified his foreign service and confirmed his boots on ground in both the Republic of Vietnam and the Philippines. Therefore, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, we find no basis to recommend granting the relief sought in this application.

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THE BOARD DETERMINES THAT:

The applicant be notified the evidence presented did not demonstrate the existence of 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.

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The following members of the Board considered AFBCMR Docket Number BC-2012-00683 in Executive Session on 31 Oct 12, under the provisions of AFI 36-2603:

Panel Chair  
Member  
Member

The following documentary evidence was considered:

- Exhibit A. DD Forms 149, dated 18 May 12 and 2 Aug 12, w/atchs.
- Exhibit B. Applicant's Master Personnel Records.
- Exhibit C. Letter, AFPC/DPSIDR, dated 22 May 12.
- Exhibit D. Letter, SAF/MRBR, dated 8 Jun 12.

Panel Chair