

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
AIR FORCE BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2012-01274

COUNSEL: NONE

HEARING DESIRED: NO

APPLICANT REQUESTS THAT:

His DD Form 214, *Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge*, be corrected to reflect his Vietnam service.

APPLICANT CONTENDS THAT:

His personnel records do not reflect a physical assignment to the Republic of Vietnam nor do they contain any indication of his temporary assignments, visitations or travel to Vietnam. He was assigned to Cam Rahn Bay Air Base (AB), Vietnam for a 30-day temporary duty (TDY) assignment.

From 29 June 1967 through 04 April 1968 he was an assistant Crew Chief with landings in Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, and Thailand. He flew over 150 hours in the South East Asia (SEA) Theater of Operation and participated in aerial flights into Vietnam to airlift personnel and cargo. They returned to Ubon, Thailand or Naha AB, Okinawa upon completion of each mission.

In support of his request, the applicant submits a notarized statement from a former military coworker and documents extracted from his military personnel records.

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

STATEMENT OF FACTS:

The applicant enlisted in the Regular Air Force on 17 March 1965. He was trained as an aircraft mechanic and was progressively promoted to the grade of Sergeant, E-4. He was released from active duty on 16 October 1968 with an honorable characterization of service and was credited with serving 4 years and 7 months of active duty which included 1 year, 4 months and 27 days of Foreign and/or Sea Service.

The applicant's DD Form 214 reflects he was awarded the Vietnam Service Medal (VSM) and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal (RVNCM).

AIR FORCE EVALUATION:

AFPC/DPAPP recommends denial. DPAPP states a review of the applicant's master personnel records and documentation submitted failed to provide any documents that substantiate foreign service in Vietnam. They were able to verify and confirm boots on the ground at Naha, Air Base, Okinawa, from 28 December 1966 to 24 May 1968, but unable to verify any service in Vietnam.

The complete AFPC/DPAPP evaluation is at Exhibit C.

AFPC/DPSIDR states based on the applicant's duties and responsibilities as an aircraft mechanic, his duty location (Okinawa, Japan), and the fact his DD Form 214 reflects he was awarded the VSM and RVCM, the likelihood of his having served in direct support of military operations supporting Vietnam is highly likely.

The source document to verify TDY date and location is a paid travel voucher. This document is not inherently part of Air Force members' personnel records; therefore, this documentation is not always available to validate where or when an individual served on temporary duty. There is no documentation in the applicant's personnel file to indicate he served in Vietnam or any of the other locations listed on his request. However, by virtue of the award of the VSM and RVCM on his DD Form 214, there is a strong indication he either served in an area that was eligible for the VSM and RVCM or he was awarded the VSM and RVCM for directly contributing combat support to military operations in Vietnam.

The complete AFPC/DPSIDR evaluation is at Exhibit D.

APPLICANT'S REVIEW OF AIR FORCE EVALUATION:

In a letter dated 20 July 2012, the applicant states the certified statement provided by his military coworker attests to the fact that he was physically present on station at Cam Rahn Bay AB, South Vietnam while in TDY status. He also submitted certified copies of "Special Pay for Duty Subject to Hostile Fire" documents to clarify his missions in the combat zone areas.

The applicant's complete response, with attachments is at Exhibit F.

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 with regard to the applicant's request for Vietnam service credit. The applicant has provided copies of special pay for duty subject to hostile fire documents, his award of the Vietnam Service Medal and Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, and a certified letter from a former military coworker confirming his presence in Cam Rahn Bay Air Base, Vietnam. We believe the applicant has established reasonable doubt that he did indeed serve in Vietnam and we elect to resolve any doubt we have in his favor. Therefore, to avoid a possible injustice and in recognition of his service to the Nation, we 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 APPLICANT be corrected to show that he had boots on the ground in the Republic of Vietnam from 28 December 1966 to 24 May 1968.

The following members of the Board considered this application BC-2012-01274 in Executive Session on 2 October 2012, under the provisions of AFI 36-2603:

Panel Chair
Member
Member

The following documentary evidence was considered:

- Exhibit A. DD Form 149 dated 19 March 2012, w/atchs.
- Exhibit B. Applicant's Master Personnel Records.
- Exhibit C. Letter, AFPC/DPAPP, dated 1 June 2012.
- Exhibit D. Letter, AFPC/DPSIDR, dated 18 June 2012.
- Exhibit e. Letter, SAF/MRBR, dated 2 July 2012.
- Exhibit C. Letter, Applicant, dated 20 July 2012, w/atchs.

Panel Chair