

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS  
AIR FORCE BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2012-01500  
COUNSEL: NONE  
HEARING DESIRED: NO

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APPLICANT REQUESTS THAT:

His DD Form 214 be amended to reflect the Vietnam Service Medal (VSM).

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APPLICANT CONTENDS THAT:

On 2 April 2008, it was confirmed that he had boots-on-the-ground in the Republic of Vietnam and was issued a corrected copy of his DD Form 214, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*.

In support of the applicant's appeal, he provides documents extracted from his military personnel records.

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

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STATEMENT OF FACTS:

The applicant enlisted in the Regular Air Force on 1 December 1960.

On 31 March 1981, the applicant retired in the grade of master sergeant under the provisions of AFR 35-7, Voluntary - Retirement for Years of Service Established By Law. He served 20 years and 4 months on active duty.

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AIR FORCE EVALUATION:

AFPC/DPSIDRA recommends denial. DPSIDRA states there is no documentation to determine if the applicant served in Vietnam for at least 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days.

The Air Force Personnel Center, Directorate of Assignments, confirmed boots-on-the-ground in Vietnam based on an eyewitness who recounted a brief encounter with the applicant on one occasion at Tan Son Nhut Air Base, Vietnam, sometime between August 1970 and August 1971. The applicant's evaluation report

closing 13 May 1971 reflects that he was serving on temporary duty (TDY) as a Sky Marshall during Operation GRIDSQUARE during this period.

Although the applicant may have flown in and out of the area of Vietnam while serving as a Sky Marshall, he was not serving in Vietnam, directly supporting the mission in Vietnam. Operation GRIDSQUARE was a program conducted by the Department of Defense to assist the Department of Transportation in screening, training, deploying, and supervising military personnel from all services (Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps), who voluntarily participated as Federal Air Security Specialists (Sky Marshalls) to combat air piracy in response to a rash of political hijackings of U.S. commercial aircraft.

The applicant provided an eyewitness statement confirming a brief encounter which took place in Vietnam. This statement was used by the Directorate of Assignments to confirm the applicant had boots on ground in Vietnam; however, it does not indicate the length of time served or to whom he was assigned.

The DPSIDRA complete evaluation, with attachment, is at Exhibit C.

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APPLICANT'S REVIEW OF AIR FORCE EVALUATION:

The applicant states that he served as an Air Marshall during the contested time frame. The FAA made it clear to all Air Marshalls that in order to maintain the integrity of a mission; Air Marshalls would travel throughout the globe without the benefit of written orders. He flew to Vietnam while on a mission and while there he visited with a friend, who has provided a statement in support of his appeal in 2008. The criteria for the VSM states that it may be awarded to all members of the U.S. Armed Forces...Serving at any time between 4 July 1965 and 28 March 1973, in Vietnam, its contiguous waters, or airspace there-over. He believes very strongly that he was indeed a bona fide member of the Armed Forces, proudly serving his country, like the many men and women serving their country in support of combat operations in Vietnam. In addition, although there may not have been an actual engagement with an enemy, the mere presence of U.S. Sky Marshalls aboard a U.S. Commercial aircraft, might have had a significant deterrent affect discouraging the enemy from carrying out a catastrophic act against resources of the United States of America, as was evident on September 11, 2001.

The applicant's complete response 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. We took note that a correction was made to the applicant's DD Form 214 to reflect boots-on-the-ground in Vietnam; however, the amount of foreign service performed in Vietnam could not be verified. Therefore, in the absence of documentation to determine if the applicant served in Vietnam for at least 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days, we find no basis to recommend granting the relief sought.

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The following members of the Board considered AFBCMR Docket Number BC-2012-01500 in Executive Session on 16 October 2012, under the provisions of AFI 36-2603:

The following documentary evidence pertaining to AFBCMR Docket Number BC-2012-01500 was considered:

- Exhibit A. DD Form 149, dated 26 March 2012, w/atchs.
- Exhibit B. Applicant's Master Personnel Records.
- Exhibit C. Letter, AFPC/DPSIDRA, dated 14 May 2012.
- Exhibit D. Letter, SAF/MRBC, dated 24 May 2012.
- Exhibit E. Letter, Applicant, dated 11 June 2012.