

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
AIR FORCE BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2012-01746
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 entitlement to the Vietnam Service Medal (VSM).

APPLICANT CONTENDS THAT:

His DD Form 214 reflects two service medals, the National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) and the Good Conduct Medal (GCM), and it should also reflect the VSM.

In 1967, he was reassigned from the 99th Organizational Maintenance Squadron (99th OMS), Westover AFB, MA to the 82nd Strategic Reconnaissance Squadron (82nd SRS) at Yakota AFB, Japan, as a ground crew member on the RC-135. In 1967, the 82nd SRS moved to Kadena AFB, Japan, and he was assigned to the 4252nd OMS as assistant crew chief on the RC-135. He flew combat missions in support of the Vietnam conflict and observed ordnances being detonated.

While applying for Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits, he was informed he should apply for the VSM due to flying combat missions during his tour of duty from Jun 67 to Jun 68.

In support of his request, the applicant provides a copy of his DD Form 214.

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

STATEMENT OF FACTS:

The applicant served on active duty in the Air Force from 22 Jun 64 to 18 Jun 68. His DD Form 214 reflects a total 3 years, 11 months, and 27 days of total active service; with 1 year and 4 months being Foreign Service.

The VSM is awarded to all members of the Armed Forces who, between 4 Jul 65 and 28 Mar 73, served in the area of eligibility (AOE). The AOE is defined as: Vietnam, its contiguous waters, or the airspaces there over, in Thailand, Laos, or Cambodia, and in the direct support of military operations in Vietnam. To be eligible, a service member must have served on temporary duty (TDY) in the AOE for 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days. These time limitations may be waived for personnel who participated in actual combat operations. A bronze star denotes campaign participation and is awarded for at least one day served in each campaign phase.

AFPC/DPSID verified the applicant's entitlement to the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with two Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters (AFOUA w/2BOLCs) and the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm (RVNGC w/P). His DD Form 214 will be administratively corrected to reflect these awards.

AIR FORCE EVALUATION:

AFPC/DPAPP recommends denial. DPAPP states they were able to verify and confirm "boots on the ground" in Japan from 15 Jun 67 to 18 Jun 68; however, was unable to verify any service in Vietnam.

A review of his master personnel records (MPR) and documentation provided failed to provide documents substantiating service in Vietnam.

The complete DPAPP evaluation is at Exhibit B.

AFPC/DPSID recommends denial. DPSID states there is insufficient evidence in the applicant's MPR to support the applicant served in the AOE for award of the VSM.

The applicant served in units during their award periods for the RVNGC w/P, which would imply the units provided combat support to military operations in the AOE for award of the VSM. However, no documentation could be found to show the applicant served in the AOE or that he met the time requirements for award of the VSM.

The complete DPSID evaluation is at Exhibit C.

APPLICANT'S REVIEW OF AIR FORCE EVALUATION:

He contests the Review Board's finding that he did not serve in the AOE. He was an assistant crew chief on the RC-135M aircraft while deployed in Southeast Asia from 1967-1968. He believes the

aircraft flight manifest was not considered, as he was on flying status at the time and his records would indicate this.

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 error or injustice. After a thorough review of the evidence of record and the applicant's submission, we are not persuaded his record should be corrected to reflect entitlement to the VSM. We note the applicant's contention that he flew combat missions in support of the Vietnam conflict; however, without documentary evidence to substantiate his claim, we agree with the opinions and recommendations of the Air Force offices of primary responsibility and adopt their rationale as the basis for our conclusion the applicant has not sustained his burden of having suffered either an error or an injustice. Should the applicant obtain any official military documents that can substantiate his service in Vietnam; we would be willing to reconsider his request. We note AFPC/DPSID has verified the applicant's entitlement to the AFOUA w/2BOLCs and the RVNGC w/P, and will correct the applicant's record to reflect these medals. Therefore, aside from the administrative correction noted above, we find no basis to recommend further relief in this case.

THE BOARD DETERMINES THAT:

The applicant be notified that the evidence presented did not demonstrate the existence of material error or injustice; that the application was denied without a personal appearance; and that the application will only be reconsidered upon the submission of newly discovered relevant evidence not considered with this application.

The following members of the Board considered Docket Number BC-2012-01746 in Executive Session on 15 Nov 12, under the provisions of AFI 36-2603:

, Panel Chair
, Member
, Member

The following documentary evidence pertaining to Docket Number BC-2012-01746 was considered:

- Exhibit A. DD Form 149, dated 15 Apr 12, w/atch.
- Exhibit B. Letter, AFPC/DPAPP, dated 2 Jul 12.
- Exhibit C. Letter, AFPC/DPSID, dated 11 Aug 12.
- Exhibit D. Letter, SAF/MRBR, dated 28 Aug 12.
- Exhibit E. Letter, Applicant, dated 6 Sep 12.

Panel Chair