

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS  
AIR FORCE BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2012-01960  
COUNSEL: NONE  
HEARING DESIRED: NO

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APPLICANT REQUESTS THAT:

1. His DD Form 214, *Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge*, be corrected to reflect the Vietnam Service Medal (VSM) - **administratively correct to reflect the VSM w/1 BSS.**
  2. His DD Form 214 be corrected to reflect the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal (RVCM).
  3. Any other awards and medals that he may have earned while serving in Takhli, Thailand during Vietnam - **administratively corrected to reflect award of the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm (RVGC w/P).**
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APPLICANT CONTENDS THAT:

He believes he should be eligible for the Vietnam Service Medal and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal. He is not sure of all the medals that he is entitled to, but would like whatever he is entitled to be awarded to him for his service.

The applicant does not provide any supporting documentation.

His complete submission is at Exhibit A.

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STATEMENT OF FACTS:

The applicant served in the Regular Air Force and was honorably discharged on 8 Jun 73 after serving 3 years, 11 months, and 29 days on active duty.

AFPC/DPSID will administratively correct the applicant's records to reflect awards of the VSM w/1 BSS and the RVGC w/P.

The RVCM Criterion: This medal is awarded to members of the armed forces of the United States who: 1) Served for six months

in South Vietnam during the period March 1, 1961 to March 28, 1973; 2) Served outside the geographical limits of South Vietnam and contributed direct combat support to the RVN armed forces for an aggregate of six months. Only members of the armed forces of the United States who meet the criteria established for the AFEM (Vietnam) or Vietnam Service Medal during the period of service required are considered to have contributed direct combat support to the RVN armed forces; 3) Did not complete the length of service required in item (1) or (2) above, but who, during wartime, were: a) wounded by the enemy (in a military action); b) captured by the enemy during action or in the line of duty, but later rescued or released; c) killed in action or in the line of duty; 4) Were assigned in Vietnam on Jan. 28, 1973, and who served a minimum of 60 calendar days in Vietnam during the period Jan. 29 to March 28, 1973.

The remaining relevant facts pertaining to this application are contained in the letter prepared by the appropriate office of the Air Force, which is at Exhibit C.

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AIR FORCE EVALUATION:

AFPC/DPSID recommends denial for awarding the RVCM, stating they were unable to verify the applicant's service in the area of eligibility for an aggregate of 6 months or that he served outside the geographical limits of South Vietnam and contributed in direct support of combat to the Republic of Vietnam.

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

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APPLICANT'S REVIEW OF AIR FORCE EVALUATION:

The applicant responds by stating he should have asked what medals and ribbons he may qualify for. He is sure he qualifies for the overseas ribbon and maybe the marksmanship. In addition, he was assigned to the 429<sup>th</sup> Tactical Fighter Squadron, Black Falcons. He submits a photo that shows the plaque that each person in his squadron received from the squadron commander.

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

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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 error or injustice. After thoroughly reviewing the evidence of record and noting the applicant's contention, we are not persuaded that he is eligible for the RVNCM since he did not complete a minimum of 6 months in a qualifying location. In this respect, we note that in order for a member, such as the applicant, who served outside the geographical limits of South Vietnam, i.e., Thailand, to be eligible for the RVNCM, there must be evidence the member served an aggregate of 6 months in direct combat support of RVN forces. Although it appears the applicant provided direct combat support to RVN forces, as evidenced by his receipt of the VSM, the evidence of record indicates that he completed only 3 months and 11 days of foreign service in Thailand. While the applicant asserts that he is entitled to the Air Force Overseas Service Ribbon (AFOSR) and possibly the Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon (SMAER), the AFOSR was not established until after his separation and he has provided no evidence that he ever qualified as an expert marksman. 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 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.

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The following members of the Board considered AFBCMR Docket Number BC-2012-01960 in Executive Session on 14 Nov 12, under the provisions of AFI 36-2603:

The following documentary evidence for Docket Number BC-2012-01960 was considered:

- Exhibit A. DD Form 149, dated 1 Apr 12.
- Exhibit B. Applicant's Master Personnel Records.
- Exhibit C. Letter, AFPC/DPSID, dated 11 Aug 12, w/atck.
- Exhibit D. Letter, SAF/MRBR, dated 28 Aug 12.

Exhibit E. Letter, Applicant, dated 10 Sep 12, w/atch.

Paniel Chair