

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS  
AIR FORCE BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2012-02453

COUNSEL: NONE

HEARING DESIRED: NO

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APPLICANT REQUESTS THAT:

His records be corrected to reflect he was awarded the Air Medal (AM), 11th Oak Leaf Cluster (OLC).

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APPLICANT CONTENDS THAT:

He has attached documentation along with a letter that states he was to receive the 3<sup>rd</sup> OLC to his AM. His enlistment record and report of separation states that he received two Silver OLCs to the AM.

In support of his appeal, the applicant provides a copy of the Air Medal, 11 OLC, certificate that he was awarded.

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

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STATEMENT OF FACTS:

The applicant is a former member of the Regular Air Force who retired on 30 June 1966.

The remaining relevant facts pertaining to this application are contained in the letter prepared by the Air Force office of primary responsibility which can be found at Exhibit C.

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AIR FORCE EVALUATION:

AFPC/DPSID recommends approval. The Air Medal was authorized by Executive Order 9158, and is awarded to persons who, while serving in any capacity with the Armed Forces of the United States, subsequent to 8 September 1939, distinguished themselves by heroic or meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight.

The applicant served as a scanner-gunner during Operation CASTLE from 28 January 1954 to 15 May 1954, in aerial flight over the Pacific Proving Grounds. His service record reflects he was awarded the AM 10<sup>th</sup> OLC on 20 June 1944. The service record also reflects he was awarded the Air Medal with two Silver OLCs, which equals 11 Air Medals. The citation with the 3rd OLC reads the same as the citation for the 11<sup>th</sup> OLC. The citation for the 11<sup>th</sup> OLC has an official seal. Additionally, his record contains the certificate for the Air Medal 11<sup>th</sup> OLC which is dated 13 December 1954. The special order, the official source document to verify the award of the Air Medal 11<sup>th</sup> OLC, could not be located.

There is substantial evidence indicating the applicant was awarded an Air Medal in 1954. In view of his previously awarded Air Medal 10<sup>th</sup> OLC, this would have been his 11<sup>th</sup> OLC, in spite of references to the 3<sup>rd</sup> OLC.

The complete DPSID evaluation is at Exhibit C.

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APPLICANT'S REVIEW OF THE AIR FORCE EVALUATION:

A copy of the Air Force evaluation was forwarded to the applicant on 28 August 2012, for review and comment within 30 days. As of this date, no response has been received by this office (Exhibit D).

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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. Sufficient relevant evidence has been presented to demonstrate the existence of error or injustice. We took note of the applicant's complete submission to include the recommendation by the Air Force office of primary responsibility and agree with their recommendation. The applicant has submitted an overwhelming amount of evidence to substantiate his entitlement to the Air Medal. Therefore, we recommend the records be corrected as indicated below.

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THE BOARD DETERMINES THAT:

The pertinent military records of the Department of the Air Force relating to APPLICANT be corrected to show that Block 33,

*Decorations and Citations*, of the WD AGO Form 53-55 issued in conjunction with his 30 September 1945 separation be corrected to reflect Air Medal with Two Silver and One Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters.

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The following members of the Board considered BCMR Docket Number BC-2012-02453 in Executive Session on 6 December 2012, under the provisions of AFI 36-2603:

Panel Chair  
Member  
Member

All members voted to correct the record, as recommended. The following documentary evidence was considered:

- Exhibit A. DD Form 149, dated 8 Dec 11, w/atchs.
- Exhibit B. Applicant's Master Personnel Records.
- Exhibit C. Letter, AFPC/DPSID, dated 7 Aug 12.
- Exhibit D. Letter, SAF/MRBR, dated 28 Aug 12.

Panel Chair