

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
AIR FORCE BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2012-02514
COUNSEL: NONE
HEARING DESIRED: NO

APPLICANT REQUESTS THAT:

Award of the Vietnam Service Medal (VSM) be added to his records and he be issued a DD Form 215, *Correction to DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*, and any other awards related to service in Vietnam.

APPLICANT CONTENDS THAT:

His Air Force records confirm Vietnam service on 20 September 1964, 18 May 1965 and 9 September 1965.

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.

STATEMENT OF FACTS:

The applicant enlisted in the Regular Air Force on 26 September 1961.

On 24 September 1965, the applicant was released from active duty and transferred to the Air Force Reserve. He served 3 years, 11 months and 29 days on active duty.

AIR FORCE EVALUATION:

AFPC/DPSID recommends denial for award of the VSM. DPSID states the VSM is governed by DoDM 1348.33-V2, dated 23 November 2010 and is awarded to all members of the U.S. Armed Forces who served in the area of eligibility (AOE) which is defined as: Vietnam or contiguous waters or airspace above, Cambodia, Laos or Thailand, between 3 July 1965 and 18 March 1973. To be eligible, a service member must have served temporary duty (TDY) for 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days. These time

limitations may be waived for personnel who participated in actual combat operations. A bronze service star denotes campaign participation and is awarded for at least one day served in each campaign phase.

The applicant provided travel vouchers confirming boots on ground in Vietnam and Thailand for three non-consecutive days: 1) 20 September 1964; 2) 18 May 1965; and 3) 9 September 1965. AFPC/DPAPP, confirmed boots on ground on these specific dates.

Based on the eligibility criteria for award of the VSM, the applicant is not eligible for this award as he did not participate in combat operations and does not meet the time requirements for the award.

AFPC/DPSID has verified the applicant's entitlement to the Air Force Good Conduct Medal (AFGCM) and the National Defense Service Medal (NDSM) for his service from 26 September 1961 to 24 September 1965. AFPC/DPSOY will administratively correct the applicant's record.

The DPSIDRA complete evaluation is at Exhibit C.

APPLICANT'S REVIEW OF AIR FORCE EVALUATION:

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

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. The applicant's contentions are duly noted; however, after reviewing the evidence of record, 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 the applicant has not provided sufficient evidence to substantiate his entitlement to the VSM. Therefore, other than the administrative corrections (AFGCM and the NDSM) made to his records, we find no basis to recommend granting the remaining relief sought in this application.

The following members of the Board considered AFBCMR Docket Number BC-2012-02514 in Executive Session on 27 November 2012, under the provisions of AFI 36-2603:

The following documentary evidence pertaining to AFBCMR Docket Number BC-2012-02514 was considered:

- Exhibit A. DD Form 149, dated 8 May 2012, w/atchs.
- Exhibit B. Applicant's Master Personnel Records.
- Exhibit C. Letter, AFPC/DPSID, dated 11 August 2012.
- Exhibit D. Letter, SAF/MRBR, dated 28 August 2012.