

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS  
AIR FORCE BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2012-02464  
COUNSEL: NO  
HEARING DESIRED: NO

APPLICANT REQUESTS THAT:

He be awarded the Vietnam Defense Medal [sic]; however, it is assumed that since no such medal exists, he is actually requesting the Vietnam Service Medal (VSM).

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APPLICANT CONTENDS THAT:

He deserves the award for flying in and out of Vietnam between July 1967 and January 1968. The Air Force has asked him to be part of the Air Force 20-year Health Study for Agent Orange.

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

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STATEMENT OF FACTS:

The applicant served as an aircraft mechanic assigned to Naha Air Base, Okinawa, between June 1967 and August 1968. He was placed on Aeronautical Orders designated as a non-crew member on 29 June 1967. He was also placed on blanket travel orders on 21 June 1967, 12 September 1967, and again on 13 December 1967 (extending through 31 March 1968), indicating that during these periods, he would proceed within the geographical limits of Japan, Republic of Vietnam, Thailand, Taiwan, Okinawa, Republic of the Philippine, and Republic of Korea on temporary duty (TDY), as maintenance support.

Several travel vouchers, located in the applicant's military personnel records, reflect dates of travel into and out of the area of eligibility (AOE) equaling a total of 29 non-consecutive days TDY.

The applicant was honorably discharged effective 25 August 1968 in the grade of sergeant (E-4), after serving 3 years, 11 months, and 25 days on active duty. He served 1 year, 2 months, and 20 days of Foreign Service.

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AIR FORCE EVALUATION:

AFPC/DPSID recommends denial. DPSID states the applicant requests the Vietnam Defense Medal, which does not exist, and believes he is requesting the VSM. In accordance with Department of Defense Manual (DoDM) 1348.33, the VSM is awarded to all members of the United States Armed Forces serving at any time between 4 July 1965 and 28 March 1973, in the AOE. The AOE is defined as: Vietnam, it's contiguous waters or airspace there-over; in Thailand, Laos, or Cambodia, their contiguous waters, or airspace there-over, and in direct support of operations in Vietnam. To be eligible, a member must have served on TDY for 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days. These time limitations may be waived for personnel who participated in actual combat operations or who actually participated as a crew member in one or more aerial flights directly supporting military operations. A bronze service star (BSS) denotes campaign participation and is awarded for at least one day served in each campaign phase.

After a thorough review of the applicant's military service record, they found the applicant was not designated as an aircrew member and did not serve in the AOE for the required period of 60 non-consecutive days to be authorized for award of the VSM.

The complete DPSID evaluation is at Exhibit C.

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APPLICANT'S REVIEW OF 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 (Exhibit D). As of this date, this office has received no response.

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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. We took notice of the applicant's complete submission in judging the merits of the case; however, we agree with the opinion and recommendation of the Air Force office of primary responsibility and adopt their rationale as the basis for our conclusion that the applicant has not been the victim of an error or injustice. 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-2012-02464 in Executive Session on 21 February 2013, under the provisions of AFI 36-2603:

, Chair  
, Member  
, Member

The following documentary evidence was considered in connection with AFBCMR Docket Number BC-2012-02464:

- Exhibit A. DD Form 149, dated 28 May 12, w/atch.
- Exhibit B. Applicant's Master Personnel Records.
- Exhibit C. Letter, AFPC/DPSID, dated 13 Aug 12.
- Exhibit D. Letter, SAF/MRBR, dated 28 Aug 12.

Chair