

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS  
AIR FORCE BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2012-02565  
COUNSEL: NONE  
HEARING DESIRED: NO

---

APPLICANT REQUESTS THAT:

He be awarded the Air Force Combat Action Medal (AFCAM).

---

APPLICANT CONTENDS THAT:

He was a dog handler at Pleiku Air Base, Republic of Vietnam during the period 1965 through 1966. His unit came under enemy fire almost every night. During his period of service, the Air Force did not have combat ribbons; however, they do now.

In support of his request, the applicant provides personal statements, copies of his SF 180, *Request Pertaining to Military Records*; DD Form 214, *Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge*; DD Form 256AF, *Honorable Discharge Certificate*; AF Form 899, *Permanent Change of Station Order - Military*, and various other documents associated with his request.

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

---

STATEMENT OF FACTS:

The applicant served on active duty from 24 May 63 to 12 Oct 66. He served 3 years, 4 months and 19 days of total active service.

AFPC/DPSID was able to verify the applicant's entitlement to three Bronze Service Stars (3/BSS) to his previously awarded Vietnam Service Medal (VSM) for his service during the period 24 May 63 to 12 Oct 66. The applicant's records will be administratively corrected to reflect the VSM w/3BSS.

On 15 Mar 07, the Secretary of the Air Force approved establishment of the AFCAM to recognize any military member of the Air Force (airman basic thru colonel) who actively participated in combat (ground or air). The principal eligibility criterion is that the individual must have been under direct and hostile fire while operating in unsecured space (outside the defended perimeter), or physically engaging hostile

forces with direct and lethal fire. The AFCAM may be awarded for qualifying service from 11 Sep 01, to a future date to be determined. Retroactive awards prior to 11 Sep 01, are not authorized.

---

AIR FORCE EVALUATION:

AFPC/DPSID recommends denial. DPSID states that based on the applicant's dates of service he is ineligible for award of the AFCAM.

The complete DPSID evaluation is at Exhibit B.

---

APPLICANT'S REVIEW OF AIR FORCE EVALUATION:

A copy of the Air Force evaluation was forwarded to the applicant on 28 Aug 12, for review and comment within 30 days. As of this date, no response has been received by this office (Exhibit C).

---

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 Air Force office of primary responsibility and adopt its rationale as the basis for our conclusion that the applicant has not been the victim of an error or injustice. In view of the above and in the absence of evidence to the contrary, we find no basis to recommend granting the relief sought in this application.
- 

THE BOARD DETERMINES THAT:

The applicant be notified that the evidence presented did not demonstrate the existence of a material error or injustice; the application was denied without a personal appearance; and 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-2012-02565 in Executive Session on 5 Feb 13, under the provisions of AFI 36-2603:

Panel Chair  
Member  
Member

The following documentary evidence was considered:

- Exhibit A. DD Form 149, dated 14 Jun 12, w/atchs.
- Exhibit B. Letter, AFPC/DPSID, dated 11 Aug 12, w/atch.
- Exhibit C. Letter, SAF/MRBR, dated 28 Aug 12.

Panel Chair