

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS  
AIR FORCE BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2012-02586  
COUNSEL: NONE  
HEARING DESIRED: NO

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APPLICANT REQUESTS THAT:

His DD Form 214, *Report of Separation from Active Duty* be corrected to reflect the following awards:

- a. Vietnam Service Medal (VSM).
- b. National Defense Service Medal (NDSM).
- c. Air Force Good Conduct Medal (AFGCM).
- d. Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon (SAEMR).

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APPLICANT CONTENDS THAT:

The omission of these medals limits his ability to qualify for Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) benefits.

In support of his request, the applicant provides a Transmittal of and/or Entitlement to Awards Checklist from the NPRC.

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

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STATEMENT OF FACTS:

The applicant served on active duty from 15 Oct 71 to 10 Jun 75. He served 3 years, 7 months and 26 days of total active service.

The applicant was assigned to Thailand from 7 Jun 74 to 31 Mar 75.

The applicant's NDSM, AFGCM and SAEMR are currently reflected on his DD Form 214; therefore, no correction to his record is required.

The VSM is awarded to all service members of the Armed Forces who between 4 Jul 65 and 28 Mar 73, served in the following areas of Southwest Asia. The area of eligibility is defined as: Vietnam,

its contiguous waters and airspace in Thailand, Laos, or Cambodia, or the airspace thereof and in direct support of military operations in Vietnam. To be eligible, a service member must have served temporary duty for 30 consecutive days or 60 non-consecutive days. These time limitations may be waived for personnel who participated in actual combat operations. A bronze star denotes campaign participation and is awarded for at least one day in each campaign phase.

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

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AIR FORCE EVALUATION:

AFPC/DPSID recommends denial. DPSID states although the applicant served in Thailand, the period in which he served was outside of the awarding period for the VSM; therefore; he does not meet the eligibility criteria 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 10 Sep 12 for review and comment within 30 days (Exhibit D). As of this date, this office has not received a 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 its 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 Docket Number BC-2012-02586 in Executive Session on 24 Jan 13, under the provisions of AFI 36-2603:

Panel Chair  
Member  
Member

The following documentary evidence was considered:

- Exhibit A. DD Form 149, dated 11 Jun 12, w/atch.
- Exhibit B. Applicant's Master Personnel Records.
- Exhibit C. Letter, AFPC/DPSID, dated 4 Sep 12.
- Exhibit D. Letter, SAF/MRBR, dated 10 Sep 12.

Panel Chair