



Attorney-Client

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2020-01734

Attorney-Client

COUNSEL: NONE

HEARING REQUESTED: NO

APPLICANT'S REQUEST

His DD Form 214, *Report of Separation from Active Duty*, dated 14 Jul 75, be corrected to reflect the following:

- a. Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Valor and two Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters. **(Administratively corrected)**
- b. Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm. **(Administratively corrected)**
- c. Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal.
- d. Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon.

APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS

He was not aware of the error of the missing awards until he obtained his records from the National Personnel Records Center.

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit A.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The applicant is an honorably discharged Air Force sergeant (E-4).

On 7 Mar 73 and 22 Mar 73, according to his Standard Form 600, *Chronological Record of Medical Care*, provided by the applicant, the applicant received treatment at Korat Royal Thai Air Force Base (RTAFB), Thailand.

According to AF Form 909, *Airman Performance Report*, for the reporting period of 9 Jul 72 through 1 Apr 73, the applicant was assigned to Myrtle Beach AFB, South Carolina with duty at Korat RTAFB, Thailand.

According to AF Form 910, *TSgt, SSgt and Sgt Performance Report*, for the reporting period of 2 Apr 73 through 12 Oct 73, Section VII contains the comment: "He has volunteered to re-deploy to Korat, Thailand."

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Controlled by: SAE/MRB

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Limited Dissemination Control: N/A

POC: SAF.MRBC.Workflow@us.af.mil

AF Form 910, for the reporting period of 13 Oct 73 through 7 Apr 74, reflects the applicant was assigned to Myrtle Beach AFB, South Carolina with duty at Korat RTAFB, Thailand.

On 14 Jul 75, according to DD Form 214, the applicant was released from active duty and credited with 3 years and 9 months of active duty service, including 1 year of Foreign Service. Item 19, *Indochina or Korea Service Since 5 Aug 64*, reflects: YES, 365 DAYS. Item 26, *Decorations, Medals, Badges, Commendations, Citations and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized*, reflects: National Defense Service Medal and Air Force Good Conduct Medal.

On 23 Mar 21, the Air Force Personnel Center (AFPC) Recognition Team informed the applicant they were able to verify the award of the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Valor and two Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters and the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm and that his record would be updated to reflect both awards. However, they were unable to verify award of the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal or the Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon. They requested he provide additional source documents verifying he served in the area of responsibility in support of Cambodia Support Operations and the duration of the service, and a source document indicating he qualified expert with a handgun. On 11 Jun 21, the applicant responded and provided documentation that he received medical treatment on 7 Mar 73 and 22 Mar 73 at the USAF Dispensary, Korat RTAFB.

On 31 Mar 23, AFPC/DPMSSR, published DD Form 215, *Correction to DD Form 214, Certificated of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*, amending his DD Form 214, dated 14 Jul 75, to add the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Valor and two Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters and Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm.

For more information, see the excerpt of the applicant's record at Exhibit B and the advisory at Exhibit C.

APPLICABLE AUTHORITY/GUIDANCE

According to Air Force Manual (AFMAN) 36-2806, *Awards and Memorialization Program*, the following is a qualified operation for the award of the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal:

Operation	Dates	Notes
Thailand	29 March 1973 – 15 August 1973	In support of Cambodia Support Operations.

AIR FORCE EVALUATION

AFPC/DP3SP (Recognition Program) recommends denying the request for the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and the Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon. According to AFMAN 36-2806, paragraph A13.5, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal is awarded to members of the United States (U.S.) Armed Forces who, after 1 Jul 58, participated in U.S. military operations, U.S. operations in direct support of the United Nations, or U.S. operations of assistance for friendly foreign nations. The Joint Chiefs of Staff designates operations that qualify for the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, specifies the degree of participation required, and defines the area of operations. To be eligible for the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, service members must be bona fide members of a unit participating in or be engaged in the direct support of the operation for 30 consecutive days in the area of operations (or for the full period when an operation is less

than 30 days duration), or for 60 nonconsecutive days provided the support involved entering the area of operations or met one or more of the following criteria: be engaged in actual combat, or duty which is equally as hazardous as combat duty, during the operation with armed opposition, regardless of time in the area. A service star is authorized for each qualifying operation in which the member participated.

Per paragraph A14.33, the Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon was established by the Secretary of the Air Force on 28 Aug 62 and made effective on 1 Jan 63. The ribbon is awarded to Regular Air Force, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve members, who, after 1 Jan 63, qualify as "Expert" with either the M-16 rifle (to include the M-4 and GAU-5) or an issued handgun on the Air Force qualification course, an appropriate orientation course prescribed in other Air Force Instructions, other Military Services' qualification course, or who satisfactorily complete the Combat Rifle Program. Members who, after 22 Jun 72, qualify as "Expert" with both the M-16 rifle (or M-4 or GAU-5) and an issued handgun, wear a bronze service star on the ribbon. The AF Form 522, *Ground Weapons Training Data and USAF Firearms Qualification*, or a letter from the small arms marksmanship monitor is used as the source documentation for this award. Members who qualify as "Expert" provides a copy of the AF Form 522 or letter to the manpower and personnel flight for update in the member's personnel records.

After a thorough review of the applicant's military personnel record and provided documentation, they were unable to verify entitlement to the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal or Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon. On 23 Mar 21, correspondence was sent to the applicant requesting additional documentation to possibly correct his official records to reflect the awards. The applicant responded by submitting medical documentation showing he received treatment at the USAF Medical Dispensary, Korat RTAFB, Thailand on 7 and 22 Mar 73. However, this documentation does not support verification for either award. Absent additional documentation the applicant served in support of an authorized Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal qualifying operation, along with documentation verifying he meets criteria for the Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon, they are unable to confirm entitlement to the awards. To grant relief would be contrary to the criteria established by AFMAN 36-2806.

Notwithstanding the above, they were able to verify award of the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Valor and two Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters and the award of the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm. Accordingly, the applicant's records have been administratively corrected.

The complete advisory opinion is at Exhibit C.

APPLICANT'S REVIEW OF AIR FORCE EVALUATION

The Board sent a copy of the advisory opinion to the applicant on 21 Mar 23 for comment (Exhibit D) but has received no response.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

1. The application was not timely filed. The Board also notes the applicant did not file the application within three years of discovering the alleged error or injustice, as required by Section 1552 of Title 10, United States Code, and Department of the Air Force Instruction (DAFI) 36-2603, *Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records (AFBCMR)*. While the applicant asserts a date of discovery within the three-year limit, the Board does not find the assertion supported by a preponderance of the evidence.

2. The applicant exhausted all available non-judicial relief before applying to the Board.
3. After reviewing all Exhibits, the Board concludes the applicant is not the victim of an error or injustice. The Board concurs with the rationale and recommendation of AFPC/DP3SP and finds a preponderance of the evidence does not substantiate the applicant's contentions that he should be awarded the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon. The applicant provided documentation reflecting his service in Thailand during a period of U.S. participation in military operations. However, he failed to provide sufficient evidence verifying he served in direct support of Cambodia Support Operations for the duration required to qualify for the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal in accordance with AFMAN 36-2806. Additionally, he failed to provide an AF Form 522 or other evidence verifying he qualified as "Expert" with either the M-16 rifle or an issued handgun. Therefore, the Board recommends against correcting the applicant's records, beyond that corrected administratively.

RECOMMENDATION

The Board recommends informing the applicant the evidence did not demonstrate material error or injustice, and the Board will reconsider the application only upon receipt of relevant evidence not already presented.

CERTIFICATION

The following quorum of the Board, as defined in DAFI 36-2603, paragraph 2.1, considered Docket Number BC-2020-01734 in Executive Session on 19 Oct 23:

Attorney-Client

Panel Chair

Attorney-Client

Panel Member

Attorney-Client

Panel Member

All members voted against correcting the record. The panel considered the following:

- Exhibit A: Application, DD Form 149, w/atchs, dated 11 Mar 20.
Exhibit B: Documentary evidence, including relevant excerpts from official records.
Exhibit C: Advisory Opinion, AFPC/DP3SP, dated 23 Dec 22.
Exhibit D: Notification of Advisory, SAF/MRBC to Applicant, dated 21 Mar 23.

Taken together with all Exhibits, this document constitutes the true and complete Record of Proceedings, as required by DAFI 36-2603, paragraph 4.12.9.

8/1/2025

X

Attorney-Client

Board Operations Manager, AFBCMR
Signed by: USAF

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