



**CUI//SP-MIL/SP-PRVCY**

**UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS**

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**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

*Work-Product*

**DOCKET NUMBER:** BC-2018-02401

**COUNSEL:** NONE

**HEARING REQUESTED:** NO

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**APPLICANT'S REQUEST**

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

- a. The Vietnam Service Medal
- b. Foreign Service in Thailand

**APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS**

He was stationed in *Work-Product* in 1972 and 1973 in direct support of the Vietnam War. Other members of his unit were awarded the Vietnam Service Medal; however, he was not. His DD Form 214 also does not reflect his deployments to *Work-Product* from Apr 72 to Oct 72 and Mar 73 to Sep 73. As evidence, he submitted medical records showing he received treatment in *Work-Product* on 22 Aug 72, 25 Aug 72, and 6 Sep 72, his Airman Performance Report, and his Temporary Duty (TDY) Order to *Work-Product* effective on or about 12 Mar 73 for 179 days.

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit A.

**STATEMENT OF FACTS**

The applicant is a former Air Force staff sergeant (E-5) who entered the Regular Air Force on 7 Oct 71.

On 6 Oct 75, according to DD Form 214 provided by the applicant, he was honorably discharged in the grade of E-5 after serving four years of active duty. He was also credited with one year of Foreign Service. Item 26, *Decorations, Medals, Badges, Commendations, Citations and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized*, reflects: National Defense Service Medal, the Air Force; Outstanding Unit Award; Air Force Good Conduct Medal; and Air Force Longevity Service Award.

On 2 Aug 22, AFPC/DP3AM (Air Force Personnel Center Directorate of Assignments) sent the applicant a letter stating they were able to verify and confirm his "boots on ground" Foreign Service time in *Work-Product* however could not confirm the inclusive dates of this service. Since specific locations are not annotated on a member's DD Form 214, the applicant was advised to use

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POC: [SAF.MRBC.Workflow@us.af.mil](mailto:SAF.MRBC.Workflow@us.af.mil)

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his letter as proof of “boots on ground” for Work-Product They also confirmed the amount of Foreign Service time reflected on his DD Form 214 was correct.

On 3 Aug 22, Board staff notified the applicant his request for the Vietnam Service Medal was forwarded to the Air Force Personnel Center for review and/or corrective action and the Board would not considered this portion of his request.

On 18 Jan 23, the Board received an AFPC/DP3SP advisory opinion. In view of the applicant’s original contention and concerns expressed in his 12 Jun 18 and 18 May 22 applications, the AFBCMR staff reopened his case in order for the Board to consider the award of the Vietnam Service Medal.

**APPLICABLE AUTHORITY**

Title 10, United States Code, Section 1168: Discharge or release from active duty: limitation; DoDI 1336.01, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214/5 Series)*; AFI 36-3202, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214/5 Series)*; DD Form 214 Total Force Personnel Services Delivery Guide. The DD Form 214 is prepared in accordance with the aforementioned publications and is used to record qualifying active duty service. Foreign Service locations are not an authorized entry on the DD Form 214. Foreign Service is annotated in increments of years, months, and days.

The Air Force Personnel Center Directorate of Assignments (AFPC/DP3AM) is responsible for determining an Air Force member’s Foreign Service. Since specific locations are not annotated on the DD Form 214, they will prepare a Boots-on-Ground letter if they are able to verify a member served at a specific foreign location. This letter may be used to validate overseas service.

**AIR FORCE EVALUATION**

AFPC/DP3SP (Recognition Program) recommends denying the applicant’s request for award of the Vietnam Service Medal. Per Air Force Manual (AFMAN) 36-2806, *Awards and Memorialization Program*, section A15.2, the Vietnam Service Medal is awarded to any member of the U.S. Armed Forces serving in Vietnam, contiguous waters, or air space, including service in Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, or their air space, on or after 4 Jul 65 through 28 Mar 73.

Based on the official record and the documentation provided by the applicant, they could not verify the applicant was in the area of eligibility for 30 consecutive days or 60 non-consecutive days between the periods of 4 Jul 65 through 28 Mar 73. Therefore, he does not meet the eligibility requirements for the Vietnam Service Medal. To grant relief would be contrary to the criteria established by AFMAN 36-2806 (Currently DAFMAN 36-2806).

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 19 Jan 23, for comment (Exhibit D), but has received no response.

## **FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION**

1. The application was not timely filed.
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. Specifically, the Board could not verify the applicant served in the area of responsibility for 30 consecutive days or 60 non-consecutive days between the periods of 4 Jul 65 through 28 Mar 73 to qualify for the Vietnam Service Medal. As for the applicant's request to have his Foreign Service in **Work-Product** annotated on his DD Form 214, AFPC/DP3AM sent the applicant a letter verifying his Foreign Service in **Work-Product**, however the inclusive dates of this service could not be confirmed. In addition, as noted above in the Applicable Authority, foreign service locations are not an authorized entry on the DD Form 214. Foreign service is annotated in increments of years, months, and days and it appears the amount of foreign service time reflected on the applicant's DD Form 214, is correct; therefore, a correction is not needed. Accordingly, the applicant may use the AFPC/DP3AM letter dated 2 Aug 22 as verification of his service in **Work-Product**. 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)*. The Board does not find it in the interest of justice to waive the three-year filing requirement. Therefore, the Board finds the application untimely and recommends against correcting the applicant's records.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

The Board recommends informing the applicant the application was not timely filed; it would not be in the interest of justice to excuse the delay; 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-2018-02401 in Executive Session on 6 Jul 23:

**Work-Product**, Chair, AFBCMR  
**Work-Product**, Panel Member  
**Work-Product**, Panel Member

All members voted to correct the record. The panel considered the following:

- Exhibit A: Application, DD Form 149, w/atchs, dated 12 Jun 18 and 18 May 22.
- Exhibit B: Documentary Evidence, including relevant excerpts from official records.
- Exhibit C: Letter to applicant, AFPC/DP3AM, dated 2 Aug 22.
- Exhibit D: Letter to applicant, SAF/MRBC, dated 3 Aug 22.
- Exhibit E: Advisory opinion, AFPC/DP3SP, dated 18 Jan 23.
- Exhibit F: Notification of advisory, SAF/MRBC to applicant, dated 19 Jan 23.

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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.

9/1/2023

*Work-Product*

Board Operations Manager, AFBCMR

Signed by: *Work-Product*

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