



**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-2018-03337

**COUNSEL:** NONE

**HEARING REQUESTED:** NO

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**APPLICANT'S REQUEST**

He be awarded the Vietnam Service Medal with Bronze Service Star.

**APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS**

His documented service during the Vietnam War is sufficient to support his eligibility for the Vietnam Service Medal, with a Bronze Service Star for his participation in the Vietnam Cease Fire Campaign. He supported the Christmas bombing in Hanoi, Vietnam from 18 Dec 72 through 29 Dec 72. Furthermore, from Sep 72 through Feb 73, he served in Thailand in support of the Vietnam War as a jet aircraft mechanic.

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit A.

**STATEMENT OF FACTS**

The applicant is a former Air Force staff sergeant (E-5).

On 20 Dec 68, according to DD Form 214, *Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge*, the applicant entered active duty and was discharged on 15 Jul 71. He was credited with 11 months of foreign and/or sea service.

On 16 Jul 71, according to DD Form 214, *Report of Separation from Active Duty*, the applicant entered another period of active duty service and was discharged on 15 Jul 75. He was credited with an additional 1 year and 9 days of foreign and/or sea service for the period.

On 16 Jul 75, according to DD Form 214, *Report of Separation from Active Duty*, the applicant entered his last period of active duty service and was discharged on 13 Jul 79. He was not credited with foreign and/or sea service during the period.

On 15 Nov 19, the Air Force Personnel Center (AFPC) Recognitions Team informed the applicant they were unable to verify award for the Vietnam Service Medal with one Bronze Service Star. However, should the applicant provided evidence such as paid travel vouchers, AF Form 7, *Airman Military Record*, AF Form 104, *Service Medal Award Verification*, and/or evaluation reports placing him in the area of responsibility, he may send documents within 30 days of the date of their letter.

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

**AFBCMR Docket Number BC-2018-03337  
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Controlled by: SAF/MRB  
CUI Categories: SP-MIL/SP-PRVCY  
Limited Dissemination Control: N/A  
POC: [SAF.MRBC.Workflow@us.af.mil](mailto:SAF.MRBC.Workflow@us.af.mil)

## **APPLICABLE AUTHORITY/GUIDANCE**

Air Force Manual 36-2608, *Awards and Memorialization Program*. 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. To qualify for award of the Vietnam Service Medal a member must be attached to or regularly serve for one or more days with an organization participating in or directly supporting military operations or serve on temporary duty for 30 consecutive days or 60 nonconsecutive days in Vietnam or contiguous areas, except that time limit may be waived for personnel participating in actual combat operations.

A service star is authorized for each campaign under the following conditions: (1) Assigned or attached to and present for duty with a unit during the period in which it participated in combat; (2) Under orders in the combat zone and in addition meets any of the following requirements: awarded a combat decoration; Furnished a certificate by a commanding general of a corps, higher unit, or independent force that the service member actually participated in combat; served at a normal post of duty (as contrasted to occupying the status of an inspector, observer, or visitor); aboard a vessel other than in a passenger status and furnished a certificate by the home port commander of the vessel that he served in the combat zone; or (3) Was an evader or escapee in the combat zone or recovered from a prisoner-of war status in the combat zone during the time limitations of the campaign.

The Vietnam Cease Fire Campaign during the period 30 Dec 72 – 28 Jan 73 is a Vietnam Service Medal designated campaign that qualifies for a service star.

## **AIR FORCE EVALUATION**

AFPC/DP3SP recommends denying the application. The applicant is requesting to be awarded the Vietnam Service Medal with Bronze Service Star for participation in the Vietnam Cease Fire Campaign. Based on the documentation presented and review of the official record, there is no error or injustice as the applicant does not meet the established criteria for award of the Vietnam Service Medal with one Bronze Service Star. Furthermore, on 15 Nov 19, the AFPC Recognitions Team requested additional documentation from the applicant to support his claim. However, the applicant has not provided substantial documentation to support the request.

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 28 Nov 22, 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 applicant claims he qualifies for the Vietnam Service Medal with Bronze Service Star; however, the Board determined the applicant did not provide sufficient evidence, nor is

evidence included in his military personnel record, placing him in the area of eligibility. Therefore, according to the established criteria found in AFMAN 36-2803, the applicant does not meet the established criteria for the award of the Vietnam Service Medal with Bronze Service Star. Accordingly, the Board finds a preponderance of the evidence does not substantiate the applicant's contentions. 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-2018-03337 in Executive Session on 18 May 23:

*Work-Product* [Redacted] Panel Chair  
*Work-Product* [Redacted] Panel Member  
*Work-Product* [Redacted] Panel Member

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

- Exhibit A: Application, DD Form 149, w/atchs, dated 11 Aug 18.
- Exhibit B: Documentary evidence, including relevant excerpts from official records.
- Exhibit C: Advisory Opinion, AFPC/DP3SP, w/atchs, dated 15 Nov 22.
- Exhibit D: Notification of Advisory, SAF/MRBC to Applicant, dated 28 Nov 22.

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.

7/24/2023

[Redacted]  
*Work-Product*