

**UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS****ADDENDUM TO RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS****IN THE MATTER OF:**

Work-Product

**DOCKET NUMBER:** BC-2019-01377-2**COUNSEL:** NONE**HEARING REQUESTED:** NO**APPLICANT'S REQUEST**

The Board reconsider his request to correct his DD Form 214, *Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge*, to reflect award of the Vietnam Service Medal and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

**RESUME OF THE CASE**

The applicant is a retired Air Force sergeant (E-4).

On 30 Nov 21, the Board considered and denied his request to correct his DD Form 214 to reflect award of the Air Crew Member Badge, Vietnam Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, and the Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon, finding the preponderance of the evidence did not substantiate the applicant's contention. However, AFPC/DP3SP was able to verify and administratively resolve the award of the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, with Valor and one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster. Additionally, the Board found the application was not timely submitted.

For an accounting of the applicant's original request and the rationale of the earlier decision, see the AFBCMR Letter and Record of Proceedings at Exhibit G.

On 22 Jul 22, the applicant requested reconsideration of his request to correct his DD Form 214 to reflect award of the Vietnam Service Medal and Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal. He again contends he was awarded both medals on the flight line at the Work-Product Air Base, Taiwan, a day or so before returning to the states. While at Work-Product Air Base, from Jan 67 to Feb 68, as a crew chief, he accompanied his aircraft several times to assist the flight crew doing temporary duty (TDY) to various bases in the Republic of Vietnam and Thailand working with the Airborne Battlefield Command and Control (ABCCC) unit. In support of his reconsideration request, the applicant submitted the following new evidence: (1) Personal Photos; (2) Historical Excerpt on the Work-Pr... Airlift Wing (AETC); and (3) Historical Excerpt on the Work-Pr... Airlift Squadron (AMC).

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit H.

On 9 Mar 23, AFPC/DP3AM (Directorate of Assignments) provided the applicant a boots-on-ground letter for his foreign service time in Taiwan, from 23 Jan 67 to 23 Feb 68. While assigned to Taiwan, they verified he performed several TDY assignments to the Republic of Vietnam.

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On 1 May 23, a detailed review of the applicant's Military Human Resource Records (MHRR) revealed:

During the period 11 Sep 66 through 15 Feb 68, while assigned to the [Work-Pr...] Tactical Airlift Squadron, [Work-Product] AB, Taiwan, the applicant's Enlisted Personnel Reports (EPRs), reported the applicant accompanied his C-130E aircraft on numerous TDYs to the Republic of Vietnam, maintaining it in a constant operational ready condition, for support of the <sup>1</sup>ABCCC mission.

On 1 Oct 67, Aeronautical Order [W...], designated the applicant, a [Work-Pr...] Tactical Airlift Squadron non-crew member in accordance with paragraph 5-6b, Chapter 5, AFM 35-13, required to participate frequently and regularly in aerial flights during the period 1 Oct 67 through 30 Nov 67, both dates inclusive.

According to AFTO Form 781, *Aircraft Flight Data Record*, the applicant flew multiple combat missions to the Republic of Vietnam between the period 9 Nov 67 and 3 Feb 68.

For the period 1 Nov 67 to 31 Dec 69, the [Work-Pr...] Tactical Airlift Squadron received the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, with Valor.

On 15 Feb 68, the applicant received a DD Form 215, *Correction to DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*, adding the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, with Valor and one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster to his DD Form 214 dated 10 Sep 68.

**APPLICABLE AUTHORITY/GUIDANCE**

Department of the Air Force Manual (DAFMAN) 36-2806, *Military Awards: Criteria and Procedures*, dated 27 Oct 22, paragraph 16.16. *Valor "V" Device*. The "V" device is worn to denote individual valor in combat against an enemy of the U.S. Eligibility for the "V" device for a contingency deployment operation is dependent upon the area being declared a hostile environment by the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, or hostile acts identified by the unified commander or higher authority. The "V" device may be awarded for a single event, such as a terrorist act, isolated combat-type incident, etc. The device is not awarded for normal peacetime achievements or service.

**AIR FORCE EVALUATION**

AFPC/DP3SP (Recognition Program) recommends denying the applicant's request for award of the Vietnam Service Medal and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal. According to DAFMAN 36-2806, *Military Awards: Criteria and Procedures*, dated 26 Oct 22<sup>2</sup>[sic], paragraph A15.13., 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 meet one of the following qualifications: be attached to or regularly serve for one or more days with an organization participating in or directly supporting military operations; be attached to or regularly serve for one or more days aboard a naval vessel directly supporting military operations; actually participate as a crewmember in one or more aerial flights into airspace above Vietnam and contiguous waters directly supporting military operations; serve

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<sup>1</sup> The ABCCC mission supporting the Vietnam War was an Airborne Command Post controlling all the fighters that went into North and South Vietnam and Laos from the Thailand fighter bases and bases in South Vietnam.

<sup>2</sup> DAFMAN 36-2806, dated 27 Oct 22.

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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.

No person is entitled to more than one award of the Vietnam Service Medal. Members who qualified for the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for reason of service in Vietnam between 1 Jul 58 and 3 Jul 65 (inclusive) remains qualified for that medal. Upon request, any such member may be awarded the Vietnam Service Medal instead of the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal. In such instances, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal is deleted from the list of authorized medals in personnel records. No person is entitled to both awards for service in Vietnam. Service members who earned the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for Operation FREQUENT WIND between 29 and 30 Apr 75 may elect to receive the Vietnam Service Medal instead of the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal. No service member may be issued both medals for service in Vietnam.

According to paragraph A11.9.5., the Secretary of Defense approved acceptance and wear of the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal on 7 Feb 66. The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal was awarded to members of the U.S. Armed Forces who between 1 Mar 61 and 28 Mar 73: served for 6 months in South Vietnam during the above dates or; served outside the geographical limits of South Vietnam and contributed combat support to the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces for an aggregate of six months. Only members of the U.S. Armed Forces who meet the criteria established for the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (Vietnam) or the Vietnam Service Medal during the period of service required are considered to have contributed direct combat support to the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces, or did not complete the length of service required as listed above, but who, during wartime were either: wounded by the enemy in a military action; captured by the enemy during action or in the line of duty, but later rescued or released, or; killed in action or in the line of duty.

Although the applicant provided a personal statement indicating at least 120 days in the area of eligibility, they are unable to be verified he served for one or more days directly supporting military operations or served on temporary duty for 30 consecutive days or 60 nonconsecutive days in the Republic of Vietnam for award of the Vietnam Service Medal or for an aggregate of six months for the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal. To grant relief would be contrary to the criteria established by the DAFMAN 36-2806.

The complete advisory opinion is at Exhibit J.

**APPLICANT'S REVIEW OF AIR FORCE EVALUATION**

The Board sent a copy of the advisory opinion to the applicant on 17 Apr 23 for comment (Exhibit K), and the applicant replied on 4 May 23. In his response, the applicant refutes the AFPC/DP3SP statement that other than his personal statement, the documents he submitted were previously reviewed. He reiterates that his assignment at **Work-Product** Air Base, Taiwan, from Jan 67 to Feb 68, as crew chief on the C-130 aircraft met the criteria for both the Vietnam Service Medal and Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal. To support his contention, he resubmitted documentation (copies of Special Orders, Aeronautical Orders, certificates, aircraft flight data records, photos) from his 22 Jul 22 application.

The applicant's complete response is at Exhibit L.

**FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION**

1. The application was not timely filed, but it is in the interest of justice to excuse the delay.

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 the victim of an error or injustice. While the Board notes the recommendation of AFPC/DP3SP against correcting the record, the Board finds a preponderance of the evidence substantiates the applicant's contentions. Specifically, the evidence indicates the applicant actually participated as a crewmember in one or more aerial flights into airspace above the Republic of Vietnam, warranting award of the Vietnam Service Medal. In addition, the applicant's EPR during the period 11 Sep 66 through 15 Feb 68, reflects he served outside the geographical limits of South Vietnam, however, he contributed combat support to the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces for an aggregate of six months when he accompanied his aircraft on all TDYs to the Republic of Vietnam, while maintaining his aircrafts' operational readiness conditions, thereby meeting the criteria for the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal. Therefore, the Board recommends correcting the applicant's records as indicated below.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The pertinent military records of the Department of the Air Force relating to APPLICANT be corrected to show his DD Form 214, *Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge*, issued in conjunction with his 10 Sep 68 separation, be amended in Item 24, *Decorations, Medals, Badges, Citations, and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized*, to add the Vietnam Service Medal and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

**CERTIFICATION**

The following quorum of the Board, as defined in Department of the Air Force Instruction (DAFI) 36-2603, *Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records (AFBCMR)*, paragraph 2.1, considered Docket Number BC-2019-01377 in Executive Session on 12 Jun 23:

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

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

- Exhibit G: Record of Proceedings, w/ Exhibits A-F, dated 30 Nov 21.
- Exhibit H: Application, DD Form 149, w/atchs, dated 22 Jul 22.
- Exhibit I: Documentary evidence, including relevant excerpts from official records.
- Exhibit J: Advisory Opinion, AFPC/DP3SP, dated 9 Mar 23.
- Exhibit K: Notification of Advisory, SAF/MRBC to Applicant, dated 17 Apr 23.
- Exhibit L: Applicant's Response, w/atchs, dated 4 May 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.

10/9/2023

**X** **Work-Product**

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Board Operations Manager, AFBCMR  
Signed by: **Work-Product**