

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2019-03556

XXXXXXXXXXXX

COUNSEL: NONE

HEARING REQUESTED: NO

APPLICANT'S REQUEST

His DD Form 214, *Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge*, Item 13, *Decorations, Medals, Badges, Citations and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized*, be amended to reflect award of the following:

- a. Vietnam Service Medal (VSM) with three Bronze Service Stars (VSM w/3BSS).
- b. Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon (SAEMR).

APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS

He served as a Missile Guidance and Controls Specialist. Prior to his reassignment to XXX in 1970, he qualified with an M-16. Further, he served on three separate campaigns (Commando Hunt V, VI and VII) that stretched from 12 December 1970 to 20 April 1972. The three campaigns have been consolidated and renamed by the Department of Defense.

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit A.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

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

The applicant entered active duty on 5 November 1968 for a period of four years. He served as a Missile Guidance and Controls Specialist. On 3 November 1972, the applicant was honorably released from active duty. He served 3 years, 11 months and 27 days of total active duty and credited with 1 year, 5 months and 2 days of Foreign and/or SEA service.

On 10 December 2019, AFPC Recognition Team advised the applicant that after a thorough review of his official military personnel record, they were unable to verify award of the VSM w/3BSS and SAEMR. He was asked to provide source documents (travel voucher, AF Form 7, *Airman Military Record*, AF Form 104, *Service Medal Award Verification* and/or evaluation reports) placing him in the area of responsibility. The AF Form 572, *General Military Training Record* he provided for verification of the SAEMR does not indicate he qualified as expert; therefore, rendering him ineligible for the award.

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

APPLICABLE AUTHORITY/GUIDANCE

AFI 36-2803, *The Air Force Awards and Decorations Program*, dated 15 June 2001

6.3.1. **VSM.** Awarded to all members of the US Armed Forces serving at any time between 4 July 1965 and 28 March 1973, in Vietnam, its contiguous waters and airspace or while serving in Thailand, Laos or Cambodia, or the airspaces and in direct support of operations in Vietnam. A bronze service star denotes participation in each campaign period.

SAEMR. Award to Air Force personnel, including Reservists who, after 1 January 1963, qualify as "expert" with either the M-16 rifle or issue handgun on the Air Force qualification course or the appropriate orientation course prescribed in AFIs, or who satisfactorily complete the Combat Rifle Program. (See note 7.) **Note 7:** Award ribbon only once no matter how many times an individual scores "expert." Add bronze service star to the ribbon for those personnel who, after 22 June 1972, meet the award criteria with both the M16 rifle and issue handgun. Add only one star regardless of the number of times a person qualifies with both weapons. Use AF Form 522, *USAF Ground Weapons Training Data*, or letter from the Small Arms Marksmanship Monitor as the source document for this award.

AIR FORCE EVALUATION

AFPC/DP3SP recommends denying the application. After a thorough review of the official military personnel record to possibly provide administrative relief, DP3SP is unable to verify award of the VSM w/3BSS SAEMR based on the official record and the documentation provided by the applicant. Correspondence was sent to the applicant on 10 December 2019, requesting additional documentation to possibly administratively correct the applicant's official record and award the VSM w/3BSS and SAEMR. Unfortunately, as of the date of this memo a response has not been received from the applicant and therefore unable to administratively correct due to insufficient documentation verifying eligibility of the contested awards.

The applicant provided movement orders, however the documents do not specify the location for award of additional Bronze Stars on the VSM. In addition, the applicant provided an AF Form 572, which does states the amount of rounds fired/hit; however, the bottom portion of the form is not completed for award of the SAEMR. Accordingly, assuming is the applicant did not qualify at the time, otherwise this would have been completed.

Absent additional documentation verifying the applicant meets the established eligibility criteria, the award of the VSM w/3BSS and SAEMR is unable to be awarded. To grant relief would be contrary to the criteria established by DoDI/M 1348.33 and AFMAN 36-2806 (previous AFI 36-2803) and AFI 36-2654.

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 3 November 2021 for comment (Exhibit D), but has received no response.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

1. The application was 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. Therefore, the Board recommends against correcting the applicant's records.

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 Air Force Instruction (AFI) 36-2603, *Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records (AFBCMR)*, paragraph 1.5, considered Docket Number BC-2019-03556 in Executive Session on 6 April 2022:

, Chair, AFBCMR
, Panel Member
, Panel Member

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

- Exhibit A: Application, DD Form 149, w/atchs, dated 10 and 15 July 2019.
- Exhibit B: Documentary evidence, including relevant excerpts from official records.
- Exhibit C: Advisory Opinion, AFPC/DP3SP, dated 11 October 2021.
- Exhibit D: Notification of Advisory, SAF/MRBC to Applicant, dated 3 November 2021.

Taken together with all Exhibits, this document constitutes the true and complete Record of Proceedings, as required by AFI 36-2603, paragraph 4.11.9.

X

Board Operations Manager, AFBCMR