

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2019-03948

XXXXXXXXXX

COUNSEL: NONE

HEARING REQUESTED: NOT INDICATED

APPLICANT'S REQUEST

His DD Form 214, *Report of Separation from Active Duty*, Item 26, *Decorations, Medals, Badges, Commendations, Citations and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized*, be amended to reflect award of the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (AFEM).

APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS

The AFEM was omitted from his DD Form 214. He was authorized the award for his service in 1973 while stationed in XXX. His squadron helped bomb XXX for 160 days and delivered 240,000 tons of ordinance from March 1973 to 15 August 1973. He worked on the ejection seat on many of the fighters that took part in the operation. The operation was classified at the time; therefore, it was not acknowledged on his DD Form 214.

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit A.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

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

According to DD Form 214, on 19 November 1974, the applicant was honorably released from active duty and transferred to the Air Force Reserve. He served 3 years and 24 days of total active duty service and credited with 1 year and 1 day of Foreign and/or SEA service.

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

AIR FORCE EVALUATION

AFPC/DP3SP recommends denying the application. After a thorough review of the applicant's official military personnel record and provided documentation, they are unable to verify award of the AFEM in support of the XXX support Operations. Correspondence was sent to the applicant on 27 January 2020, requesting additional documentation to possibly administratively correct the applicant's official record and award the AFEM. The applicant responded on 5 February 2020,

however, was unable to provide additional documentation to support verification of the AFEM in support of the XXX Support Operations.

Per Air Force Manual 36-2806, 10 June 2019, A14.5.1.1.

AFEM: 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 operation.

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 5 November 2021 for comment (Exhibit D), and the applicant replied on 8 November 2021. In his response, the applicant contended he was stationed in XXX from June 1973 until January 1974 when he was sent on a temporary duty assignment to the XXX and then onto XXX. During his service in XXX, the base was actively participating in Operation FREEDOM DEAL by bombing the XXX areas around XXX. Their planes (F4 Phantoms and A7s) flew many missions during this operation. His Egress Shop, (the only egress shop on the base) worked on the ejection seats that were in those planes. For almost three months, he watched the fighter bombers load up and deliver bombs to the enemy. He worked on these planes, maintaining the ejection seats during that time until 15 August 1973.

The applicant's complete response is at Exhibit E.

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. We note that the applicant does not meet the criteria for award of the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal. Correspondence was sent to the applicant requesting documentation to possibly correct the applicant's official record; however, the applicant did not provide documentation to substantiate his claim. Therefore, the Board recommends against correcting the applicant's records.
4. The applicant has not shown a personal appearance, with or without counsel, would materially add to the Board's understanding of the issues involved.

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-2019-03948 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 31 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 5 November 2021.
Exhibit E: Applicant's Response, dated 8 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