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

ADDENDUM TO RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2020-01402-2

COUNSEL: NONE

HEARING REQUESTED: NO

APPLICANT'S REQUEST

His DD Form 214s, *Report of Separation from Active Duty*, effective 3 Sep 74, be corrected to reflect:

- a. The Vietnam Service Medal (VSM)
- b. The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal (RVCM)

RESUME OF THE CASE

The applicant is a retired Air Force senior master sergeant (E-8).

On 19 Feb 20, the applicant submitted a DD Form 149, *Application for Correction of Military Record*, requesting consideration of adding Southeast Asia service to his DD Form 214 and along with the awards of the Vietnam Service Medal and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

On 28 Jul 20, the AFBCMR staff notified the applicant his request for awards of the Vietnam Service Medal and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign medal was forwarded to AFPC for review and/or corrective action and the Board would not consider this portion of his request.

On 4 Nov 20, the Board considered and denied his request for Foreign Service in Southeast Asia, finding that the applicant had provided insufficient evidence of an error or injustice to justify relief and the prior request 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 F.

On 10 Oct 21, the Board received an AFPC/DP3SP advisory opinion. In view of the applicant's original contention and concerns expressed in their 19 Feb 20 application, the AFBCMR staff reopened their case in order for the Board to consider the awards of the Vietnam Service Medal and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

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[REDACTED]

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Work-Product

APPLICABLE AUTHORITY/GUIDANCE

Air Force Manual (AFMAN) 36-2806, *Awards and Memorialization Program*:

Vietnam Service Medal. 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 July 1965 through 28 March 1973. 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 1 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.

Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal. The Secretary of Defense approved acceptance and wear of the medal on 7 February 1966. The Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal was awarded to members of the U.S. Armed Forces who between 1 March 1961 and 28 March 1973 who: 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 Air Force 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.

AIR FORCE EVALUATION

AFPC/DP3SP recommends denying the application. After a thorough review of the applicant's official military personnel record, and documentation provided by the applicant, they were unable to verify the award of the Vietnam Service Medal or the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal. Although the applicant provided a *Request and Authorization for Temporary Duty* and a *Request and Authorization for Change of Administrative Orders*, and what appears to be a printout of an older *Report of Individual Personnel*, this office is unable to, and cannot, verify awards based off of orders as they can neither determine where the applicant actually went, nor for how long, and therefore, are unable to verify that the orders were actually carried out.

The complete advisory opinion is at Exhibit G.

APPLICANT'S REVIEW OF AIR FORCE EVALUATION

The Board sent a copy of the advisory opinion to the applicant on 10 Jan 22 for comment (Exhibit H), and the applicant replied on 25 Jan 22. In his response, the applicant acknowledges that whether or not he was in country long enough to be eligible for the two awards is in dispute. He states that he was sent on temporary duty (TDY) from [REDACTED] CA to [REDACTED] Thailand and that he was in country from approximately 24 Feb 72 to mid-Apr 72 when he was returned to the Continental United States (CONUS) due to allergic reactions to mosquito bites. Furthermore, he was TDY to [REDACTED] Japan from Oct 72 to Jan 73 in support of air operations and flew multiple missions in support of air operations in Southeast Asia (SEA), but unfortunately, he has no flight records as evidence. However, he states that while in the Air Force Reserve, his Consolidated Base Personnel Office reconciled his records to show entitlement for the two awards

[REDACTED]

on his awards printout. He would like to have this matter corrected to show his SEA service properly credited on his DD Form 214.

In support of this response, the applicant provided a copy of AF Form 626, *Request and Authorization for Temporary Duty*, Special Order Number [REDACTED] *Work-Product* dated 15 Feb 72, for the effective on or about date of 22 Feb 72 for approximately 122 days, from [REDACTED], CA to [REDACTED], Thailand. Additionally, he provided military treatment facility medical records from the [REDACTED] Thailand.

The applicant's complete response is at Exhibit I.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

1. The application was untimely 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 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 Board finds that the applicant's available records along with a printout provided by the applicant are sufficient evidence that an error has occurred and that he was previously awarded the Vietnam Service Medal and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal. In this regard, the Board notes that the applicant provided orders showing a departure date of 22 Feb 72 for travel to Thailand and medical records that verify he was last seen at the [REDACTED] in Thailand on 1 Apr 72, which supports that he was in country for the 30 days required for award of the Vietnam Service Medal. Furthermore, the applicant's DD Form 214, with inclusive period 19 Nov 70 through 3 Sep 74 indicates that he had 1 year, 1 month and 10 days of Foreign Service, which further corroborates that he likely contributed combat support to the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces for an aggregate of six months and would also justify award of the Vietnam Campaign Medal. Finally, the applicant provided a copy of a *Report of Individual Personnel*, which shows that he was awarded the Vietnam Service Medal and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal. As such, the Board finds that the totality of the evidence supports the applicant's request and it was likely an administrative oversight that prevented the awards from being placed on his DD Form 214. Therefore, in the interest of justice, the Board recommends correcting the applicant's record as indicated below.

RECOMMENDATION

The pertinent military records of the Department of the Air Force relating to APPLICANT be corrected to show that he was awarded the Vietnam Service Medal and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

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-2020-01402-2 in Executive Sessions on 19 Apr 22, 8 Nov 22, and 14 Jul 23.

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

Exhibit F: Record of Proceedings, w/ Exhibits A-E, dated 19 Feb 21.

Exhibit G: Advisory Opinion, AFPC/DP3SP, dated 10 Oct 21.

Exhibit H: Notification of Advisory, SAF/MRBC to Applicant, dated 10 Jan 22

Exhibit I: Applicant's response, dated 25 Jan 22.

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.

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