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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-2020-01697

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**COUNSEL:** NONE

**HEARING REQUESTED:** NO

**APPLICANT'S REQUEST**

His DD Form 214, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*, Item 13, *Decorations, Medals, Badges, Citations and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized*, issued 15 Mar 82, be corrected to add the following awards:

- a. Air Force Commendation Medal
- b. Overseas Commendation Medal
- c. Republic of Vietnam Commendation Medal
- d. Vietnam 50th Anniversary Commendation
- e. Mayaguez Incident Medal
- f. Air Force Overseas Long Tour Ribbon.

**RESUME OF THE CASE**

The applicant is a former Air Force staff sergeant (E-5) who entered the Regular Air Force on 18 Dec 72.

On 31 Aug 77, he was honorably discharged and issued a DD Form 214. He was credited with 6 months and 24 days of Foreign Service. His DD Form 214, issued on 15 Mar 82, reflects he was credited with 2 years and 29 days of foreign service. He was honorably discharged on 15 Mar 82.

On 11 Mar 20, the applicant submitted a DD Form 149, *Application for Correction of Military Records*, requesting consideration of the aforementioned medals and that his associate degree in applied science in air traffic control from the Community College of the Air Force (CCAF) be added to his DD Form 214.

On 14 Dec 20, the Board considered and denied his request for correction of his DD Form 214 to include his CCAF degree. As noted in AFI 36-3202, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*, only formal training courses completed while on active duty are listed on the DD Form 214. The Board found the applicant's request was not timely filed and it would not be in the interest of justice to waive the three-year filing requirement. The applicant's request for awards was forwarded to the Air Force Personnel Center (AFPC) Recognitions Office for review and possible administrative correction.

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 C.

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On 27 Dec 22, the Board received an AFPC/DP3SP advisory opinion. In view of the applicant's original contention and concerns expressed in his 11 Mar 20 application, the AFBCMR staff reopened the case to consider the requests for the awards.

### **APPLICABLE AUTHORITY/GUIDANCE**

Air Force Manual (AFMAN) 36-2806, *Military Awards: Criteria and Procedures*, paragraph 8.8, Commemorative Medals. Various commercial vendors offer commemorative medals that recognize historical events, campaigns, or service. These medals are not issued by the Department of Defense, Air Force or other Military Departments. In accordance with DAFI 36-2903, *Dress and Personal Appearance of United States Air Force and United States Space Force Personnel*, these medals and corresponding ribbons are not authorized for wear on official military uniforms.

The Air Force Overseas Long Tour Ribbon was authorized by the Air Force Chief of Staff on 12 Oct 80. Before 6 Jan 86, the ribbon was awarded to Air Force members credited with completion of an overseas tour on or after 1 Sep 80. The request for the overseas tour ribbon was not made in the applicant's initial request. In accordance with 10 U.S.C. § 1130, the applicant is required to exhaust administrative remedy prior to submitting his request to the AFBCMR.

### **AIR FORCE EVALUATION**

AFPC/DP3SP recommends approval for award of the AFCM. The provided certificate and citation for award of the AFCM appear to be authentic.

However, AFPC/DP3SP recommends denial for award of the Overseas Commendation Medal, Republic of Vietnam Service Commendation, Vietnam 50th Anniversary Commendation and the Mayaguez Incident Medal. It is unclear what awards the applicant is requesting. To grant relief would be contrary to the criteria established by AFMAN 36-2806.

The complete advisory opinion is at Exhibit D.

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

The Board sent a copy of the advisory opinion to the applicant on 15 Mar 23 for comment (Exhibit E), and the applicant replied on 17 Mar 23. He again requests his CCAF diploma be added on his DD Form 214. He also requests his overseas duty be added to his DD Form 214 and he receive awards for his overseas assignments. He served 18 months at Kadena AB, Okinawa from 16 Feb 77 to 11 May 79 and Korat RTAFB, Thailand from 27 Dec 74 to 15 Aug 85, during the Mayaguez incident. He was never given a separation briefing and was not aware what awards he was eligible to receive. He also had no idea there was a time limit to file for awards earned until he received a letter from the AFBCMR stating his application was not filed within a three year period. The applicant provides commemorative medals he may be eligible to receive.

The applicant's complete response is at Exhibit F.

### **FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION**

1. The application was timely filed.
2. The applicant did not exhaust all available non-judicial relief before applying to the Board for award of the Air Force Overseas Long Tour Ribbon.

3. After reviewing all Exhibits, the Board concludes the applicant is 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 substantiates the applicant's contentions in part. Specifically, the applicant has provided a signed certificate for award of the AFCM, which is sufficient to justify granting the applicant's request for award of the AFCM. However, for the remainder of the applicant's request, the evidence presented did not demonstrate an error or injustice, and the Board therefore finds no basis to recommend granting that portion of the applicant's request. With respect to the request for award of commemorative medals, the Board notes in accordance with AFMAN 36-2806 these awards are not awarded by the Department of Defense or Air Force and therefore are not included on the DD Form 214. The applicant also requests he be awarded the Air Force Overseas Long Tour Ribbon for his service in Thailand and Kadena AB from 15 Feb 77 to 11 May 79 and he be credited with his foreign service. The Board notes the applicant's DD Forms 214 issued 31 Aug 77 and 15 Mar 82 appear to include his foreign service and he has provided no evidence to show the amount of foreign service is incorrect as reflected. While the Board notes the applicant did not exhaust the available administrative relief for award of the Air Force Overseas Long Tour ribbon, the applicant is advised this ribbon was established on 12 Oct 80 and before 6 Jan 86, the ribbon was awarded to Air Force members credited with an overseas tour completion on or after 1 Sep 80. Based on the applicant's contentions and his records, it appears the applicant's overseas service was prior to the effective implementation date. The Board also notes the applicant in his response to the advisory opinion dated 15 Mar 23 again requests his CCAF degree be placed on his DD Form 214. However, as pointed out in the denial of his initial request, civilian education degree completion, to include CCAF completion, are not annotated on the DD 214. 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, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*, Item 13, *Decorations, Medals, Badges, Citations and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized*, be corrected to reflect award of the Air Force Commendation Medal.

However, regarding the remainder of the applicant's request, the Board recommends informing the applicant the evidence did not demonstrate material error or injustice, and the application will only be reconsidered upon receipt of relevant evidence not already considered by the Board.

**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-2020-01697 in Executive Session on 15 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 C: Record of Proceedings, w/Exhibits A-B, dated 13 Feb 21.
- Exhibit D: Documentary Evidence, including relevant excerpts from official records.
- Exhibit E: Advisory Opinion, AFPC/DP3SP, dated 27 Dec 22.
- Exhibit F: Notification of Advisory, SAF/MRBC to Applicant, dated 15 Mar 23.

Exhibit G: Applicant's Response, dated 17 Mar 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.

6/27/2023

*Work-Product*

Board Operations Manager, AFBCMR

Signed by: *Work-Product*