

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2020-02778

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

COUNSEL: NONE

HEARING REQUESTED: NO

APPLICANT'S REQUEST

Correct his DD Form 214, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*, to reflect award of the Korea Defense Service Medal (KDSM).

APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS

The medal was not awarded until after his retirement.

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit A.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The applicant is a retired Air Force master sergeant (E-7).

According to AF Form 910, *TSgt, SSgt, and Sgt Performance Report*, for the period 16 Mar 80 – 15 Mar 81, provided by the applicant, he was assigned to XXX (PACAF), [REDACTED] Air Base (AB), Korea.

According to AF Form 2095, *Assignment/Personnel Action*, provided by the applicant, he was assigned to XXX, effective 11 May 80.

According to AF Form 1256, *Certificate of Training*, dated 27 Aug 80, provided by the applicant, he completed the Air Force Effective Writing Course conducted by the XX CSG/DA, [REDACTED] AB, Korea.

On 5 Oct 81, according to AF Form 2224, *The Air Force Commendation Medal*, provided by the applicant, he was awarded the Air Force Commendation Medal (AFCM), for the period 11 May 80 – 9 May 81, while assigned to XXX, [REDACTED] AB, Korea.

On 31 Jul 83, according to DD Form 214, provided by the applicant, he was furnished an honorable discharge, with Narrative Reason for Separation: Vol – Retirement for Years of Service Established by Law, and credited with 20 years, 10 months, 14 days active service, of which 6 years, 10 months were foreign service.

According to National Archives and Records Administration NA Form 13059, *Transmittal of and/or Entitlement to Awards*, dated 29 Feb 20, the applicant was authorized the Korea Defense Service Medal.

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. Award of the KDSM could not be verified.

In accordance with Air Force Manual (AFMAN) 36-2806, *Awards and Memorialization Program*, 10 Jun 19:

A14.12. *Korea Defense Service Medal*. The medal was authorized by 10 USC § 9286, to recognize qualifying members of the U.S. Armed Forces who have served in the Republic of Korea subsequent to 28 July 1954.

A14.12.1. *Eligibility*.

A14.12.1.1. Service must have been in support of the defense of the Republic of Korea.

A14.12.1.2. The medal is awarded to members who, during the period of the award, were permanently assigned, attached, or detailed for 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days to a unit operating in the area of eligibility or who met one of the following criteria, regardless of time spent in the area of eligibility:

A14.12.1.2.1. Was engaged in actual combat during an armed engagement.

A14.12.1.2.2. While in the line of duty was killed, or was wounded or injured and medically evacuated from the area of eligibility.

A14.12.1.3. Aircrew members accrue 1 day of eligibility for each day they fly into, out of, within, or over the area of eligibility.

A14.12.1.4. Members who serve in operations and exercises conducted in the area of eligibility are eligible for the medal provided the basic time criteria is met. Due to the extensive period of the award, the non-consecutive service period for eligibility remains cumulative throughout the entire period.

The National Personnel Records Center states the applicant's KDSM was forwarded per Transmittal Form (NA Form 13059), dated 29 Feb 20; however, based on the documentation presented and review of the official record, the applicant's service in the Republic of Korea could not be verified, rendering him ineligible for award of the KDSM.

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 23 Jan 23 for comment (Exhibit D), and the applicant replied on 7 Apr 23. In his response, the applicant requested his application for the KDSM be reviewed. In support, he provided copies of the personnel action assigning him to XXX, [REDACTED] AB, Korea; a Certificate of Training for a course conducted on [REDACTED] AB, Korea; his enlisted performance report for the period 16 Mar 80 – 15 Mar 81, while assigned to XXX, [REDACTED] AB, Korea; the AFCM citation awarded for his service while assigned to [REDACTED] AB, Korea, and miscellaneous identification cards and photographs.

The applicant's complete response is at Exhibit E.

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, to include the applicant's rebuttal, 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. In his response to the advisory opinion, the applicant provided sufficient evidentiary support of his service while assigned to [REDACTED] AB, Korea. 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*, issued in conjunction with his 31 July 1983 discharge, Block 13. *Decorations, Medals, Badges, Citations and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized*, is amended to include the Korea Defense Service 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-2020-02778 in Executive Session on 12 Sep 23:

, Panel Chair
, Panel Member
, Panel Member

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

Exhibit A: Application, DD Form 149, w/atchs, dated 10 Aug 20.
Exhibit B: Documentary evidence, including relevant excerpts from official records.
Exhibit C: Advisory opinion, AFPC/DP3SP, dated 23 Dec 22.
Exhibit D: Notification of advisory, SAF/MRBC to applicant, dated 22 Dec 22.
Exhibit E: Applicant's Response, w/atchs, dated 7 Apr 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.

X

Board Operations Manager, AFBCMR