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UNITED STATES AIR FORCE BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2021-01545

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COUNSEL: NONE

HEARING REQUESTED: NO

APPLICANT'S REQUEST

His DD Form 214, *Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge*, Item 24, *Decorations, Medals, Badges, Commendations, Citations and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized* be corrected to reflect award of the Air Medal.

APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS

He was assigned to the [W...] Tactical Airlift Squadron, [Work-Product] Air Base, Philippines from 1967 till 1968. He was a loadmaster on the C-130B aircraft and his crew/squadron was on a regular rotation into Vietnam. His crew flew all their missions while being based in [Work-Product] Air Base, Republic of Vietnam. During the Tet Offensive, they provided air support during the siege of [Work-I Work-Product] (Operation DELAWARE/PEGASUS), medical evacuation from [Work...] and [Wor...], Vietnam. Additionally, they spent 12 to 16-hour days transporting killed in action (KIAs) from [Work-Pro...], and Marines wounded at the battle of [Work...], to [Work-Product]. Their aircraft was hit on several occasions by enemy groundfire. They took several hits while flying low altitude through [Work-Product], in Apr 68. His crew was awarded a "Wounded Herky" certificate when they were hit by groundfire over Dog Air Base, in Aug 67.

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit A.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The applicant is a former Air Force staff sergeant (E-5) who entered the Regular Air Force on 11 Sep 64.

On 5 Sep 68, according to DD Form 214, the applicant was released from the Regular Air Force and transferred to the Ready Reserve. Item 24 reflects the following awards: Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Air Force Good Conduct Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with one Oak Leaf Cluster (OLC), and the Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon.

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On 6 Jul 70, according to DD Form 215, *Correction to DD Form 214, Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge*, the applicant's DD Form 214 was corrected to reflect his grade of staff sergeant (E-5) and date of rank 1 Sep 66.

On 10 Sep 70, according to Reserve Order [Work-Product], the applicant was honorably discharged from the Air Force Reserve.

On 28 Apr 94, HQ AFMPC/DPMASA responded to the applicant's request for award of the Air Medal and the Distinguished Flying Cross. The response explained the applicant was ineligible for both awards due to insufficient documentation in his record whether he had been recommended for the awards. Additionally, the letter indicated the applicant was entitled and correction to his DD Form 214 which would be made, awarding the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Valor, the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm, and the Vietnam Service Medal.

On 12 May 94, according to DD Form 215, the applicant's DD Form 214 was corrected to reflect award of the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with valor and one OLC, Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with palm, and Vietnam Service Medal with two service stars.

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 award of the Air Medal. In accordance with Air Force Manual (AFMAN) 36-2806, *Military Awards: Criteria and Procedures*, paragraph A2.12, the Air Medal was authorized by Executive Order (EO) [Work-P...], 11 May 42, as amended by EO [Work-Prod...], 11 Sep 42. The medal is awarded to any person who, while serving in any capacity with the Air Force, distinguishes themselves by meritorious achievement while participating in an aerial flight. The medal may be awarded for combat or non-combat action in recognition of single acts of valor, heroism, or merit while participating in an aerial flight. Both heroism and achievement are entirely distinctive, involving operations that are not routine. The medal is not awarded for sustained operational activities and flights. The required achievement to warrant award of the Air Medal is less than that required for the Distinguished Flying Cross and is accomplished with distinction above and beyond that expected of professional Airmen. Crewmembers of remotely piloted aircrafts are not authorized the Air Medal. However, they may be awarded the Aerial Achievement Medal. The medal may be awarded to foreign military personnel in actual combat in support of operations.

In order to reasonably consider the request for award of the Air Medal, the applicant will need to submit a complete decorations package to include: a signed recommendation from someone with firsthand knowledge of the act/achievement, preferably from someone within applicant's chain of command at the time of the act/achievement, a proposed citation, (narrative must be signed by the recommending official and the recommending official must be in applicant's chain of command and have firsthand knowledge), and eyewitness statements.

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 25 Apr 23 for comment (Exhibit D), but has received no response.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

1. The application was not timely filed. The applicant did not file the application within three years of discovering the alleged error or injustice, as required by Section 1552 of Title 10, United States Code, and Department of the Air Force Instruction 36-2603, *Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records (AFBCMR)*. The Board does not find it in the interest of justice to waive the three-year filing requirement.
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 no evidence in the applicant's military record of documentation provided to substantiate the applicant's request to award the Air Medal. Therefore, the Board recommends against correcting the applicant's records.

RECOMMENDATION

The Board recommends informing the applicant the application was not timely filed; it would not be in the interest of justice to excuse the delay; 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 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-2021-01545 in Executive Session on 5 Dec 23:

Work-Product, Panel Chair

Work-Product, Panel Member

Work-Product, Panel Member

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

- Exhibit A: Application, DD Form 149, w/atchs, dated 14 Feb 21.
- Exhibit B: Documentary evidence, including relevant excerpts from official records.
- Exhibit C: Advisory Opinion, AFPC/DP3SP, dated 6 Jan 23.
- Exhibit D: Notification of Advisory, SAF/MRBC to Applicant, dated 25 Apr 23

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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.

6/9/2025

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Board Operations Manager, AFBCMR

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