



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2021-01921

Work-Product

COUNSEL: NONE

HEARING REQUESTED: YES

APPLICANT'S REQUEST

His DD Form 214, *Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge*, be corrected to reflect:

- a. Foreign Service in the Republic of Vietnam.
- b. Vietnam Service Medal.
- c. Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS

His DD Form 214 does not indicate service time in the Republic of Vietnam or award of any service medals. Because of this, he is unable to obtain a Vietnam Veteran license plate.

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit A.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

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

On 16 Dec 68, the applicant entered the Regular Air Force, and on 15 Dec 72, he was discharged and issued a DD Form 214. He was credited with 4 years of active service and 9 months and 2 days of Foreign and/or Sea Service. Item 24, *Decorations, Medals, Badges, Commendations, Citations and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized*, reflects: National Defense Service Medal and Air Force Good Conduct Medal.

On 28 July 21, the Air Force Personnel Center Directorate of Assignments (AFPC/DP3AM) notified the applicant they were able to verify Foreign Service in the Republic of Vietnam; however, they were unable to determine the inclusive dates of this service. The amount of Foreign Service reflected on his DD Form 214 appears correct. Since specific locations are not annotated on the DD Form 214, the applicant may use their letter as proof of boots-on-ground for the Republic of Vietnam.

On 6 Oct 21, the AFPC Recognition Team advised the applicant that after a thorough review of his official military personnel record, they were unable to verify award of the Vietnam Service Medal or the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal. They requested the applicant provide additional source documents to verify his inclusive dates of service in the area of responsibility.

AFBCMR Docket Number BC-2021-01921

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

APPLICABLE AUTHORITY

Title 10, United States Code, Section 1168: Discharge or release from active duty: limitation; DoDI 1336.01, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214/5 Series)*; AFI 36-3202, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214/5 Series)*; DD Form 214 Total Force Personnel Services Delivery Guide. The DD Form 214 is prepared in accordance with the aforementioned publications and is used to record qualifying active duty service. Foreign Service locations are not an authorized entry on the DD Form 214. Foreign Service is annotated in increments of years, months, and days.

AFPC/DP3AM is responsible for determining an Air Force member's Foreign Service. Since specific locations are not annotated on the DD Form 214, they will prepare a Boots-on-Ground Letter if they are able to verify a member served at a specific foreign location. This letter may be used to validate overseas service.

AIR FORCE EVALUATION

AFPC/DP3SP (Recognition Programs) recommends denying the applicant's request for the Vietnam Service Medal and Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal. According to Air Force Manual (AFMAN) 36-2806, *Awards and Memorialization Program*, paragraph A15.2, 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 Jul 65 through 29 Mar 73. 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 one or more days with an organization participating in or directly supporting military operations; be attached to or regularly serve for one or more days aboard a naval vessel directly supporting military operations; actually participate as a crewmember in one or more aerial flights into airspace above Vietnam and contiguous waters directly supporting military operations; 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.

Per paragraph A12.9.5, the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal is awarded to members of the U.S. Armed Forces who between 1 Mar 61 and 28 Mar 73 who: served for six 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; or did not complete the length of service required as listed above, but who, during wartime were either: wounded by the enemy in a military action; or captured by the enemy during action or in the line of duty, but later rescued or released; or killed in action or in the line of duty. Service members who were assigned in Vietnam on 20 Jan 73 and who served a minimum of 60 calendar days in Vietnam during the period of 29 Jan to 28 Mar 73 qualify for the medal.

After a thorough review of the applicant's official military personnel record and provided documentation to possibly provide administrative relief, AFPC/DP3SP was unable to verify entitlement to the requested awards. On 6 Oct 21, correspondence was sent to the applicant

requesting additional documentation, but none was received. Accordingly, there is insufficient evidence to verify the applicant met eligibility requirements for award of the Vietnam Service Medal and Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal. To grant relief would be contrary to the criteria established in AFMAN 36-2806.

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 26 Jun 23 for comment (Exhibit D) but has received no response.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

1. The application was not timely filed. The Board notes 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 (DAFI) 36-2603, *Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records (AFBCMR)*.

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 finds a preponderance of the evidence does not substantiate the applicant's contentions. While AFPC/DP3AM was able to verify the applicant served in the Republic of Vietnam, they were unable to verify the inclusive dates of this service or correct the amount of Foreign Service on his DD Form 214. As noted above, Foreign Service locations are not an authorized entry on the DD Form 214. Therefore, the applicant may use the AFPC/DP3AM Boots-on-Ground Letter as proof of his service in the Republic of Vietnam. Consequently, without confirmation of the applicant's specific dates of service in the Republic of Vietnam, AFPC/DP3SP was unable to verify the applicant met established criteria for award of the Vietnam Service Medal and Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal. Correspondence was sent to the applicant requesting additional documentation for review, but none was received. 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 DAFI 36-2603, paragraph 2.1, considered Docket Number BC-2021-01921 in Executive Session on 25 Jan 24:

Work-Product, Panel Chair
Work-Product, Panel Member

AFBCMR Docket Number BC-2021-01921

Work...

Work... Work-Product

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 Apr 21.

Exhibit B: Documentary evidence, including relevant excerpts from official records.

Exhibit C: Advisory Opinion, AFPC/DP3SP, dated 16 Feb 23.

Exhibit D: Notification of Advisory, SAF/MRBC to Applicant, dated 26 Jun 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.

5/12/2025

X

Work-Pr...

Board Operations Manager, AFBCMR

Work-Product

AFBCMR Docket Number BC-2021-01921

Work... Work-Product

Work...