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UNITED STATES AIR FORCE BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2021-03241

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COUNSEL: NONE

HEARING REQUESTED: YES

APPLICANT'S REQUEST

He be awarded the Vietnam Service Medal (VSM).

APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS

His request for award of the VSM was denied as his service time in Thailand reflected as 18 Aug 74 to 5 Apr 75. However, this is incorrect. He was stationed in Thailand until he returned for discharge on 14 May 75. He left Thailand on either 12 or 13 May. There were no other assignments between 5 Apr 75 and 14 May 75. The incorrect dates are preventing him from being awarded the VSM.

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit A.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

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

The applicant's military human resources record (MHRR) is not available. However, he provided a DD Form 214, *Report of Separation from Active Duty*, which reflects he was discharged on 14 May 75 and was credited with 3 years, 8 months and 6 days of active duty service.

On 7 Dec 22, AFPC informed the applicant's Congressman in accordance with DAFMAN 36-2806, *Military Decorations and Awards Program*, the VSM is awarded to any member of the Armed Forces serving in Vietnam, contiguous waters or air space, including Thailand, Laos, Cambodia or their air space on or after 4 Jul 65 through 28 Mar 73. The applicant's records reflected he was stationed in Thailand for 349 days and his enlisted performance report (EPR) indicated he was assigned to Thailand from 18 Aug 74 to 5 Apr 75. The applicant's time served in Thailand did not meet the criteria and therefore they were unable to verify award of the VSM.

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

AIR FORCE EVALUATION

AFPC/DP3SP recommends denial for award of the VSM. The applicant's MHRR is not available; however, based on the applicant's previous request, the applicant's dates of service are past the award inclusive dates for the VSM as stated in the Congressional letter dated 4 Nov 22.

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Controlled by: SAF/MRB

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Limited Dissemination Control: N/A

POC: SAF.MRBC.Workflow@us.af.mil

The complete advisory opinion is at Exhibit B.

APPLICANT'S REVIEW OF AIR FORCE EVALUATION

The Board sent a copy of the advisory opinion to the applicant on 19 Sep 23 for comment (Exhibit C) but has received no response.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

1. The application was timely 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 not 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 does not substantiate the applicant's contentions. The Board notes Thailand is not in the area of operation for Operation Frequent Wind and the dates of service are past the inclusive dates for award of the VSM. 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 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-2021-03241 in Executive Session on 3 Jul 24:

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Panel Chair

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Panel Member

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Panel Member

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

Exhibit A: Application, DD Form 149, w/atchs, dated 19 Dec 22.

Exhibit B: Advisory Opinion, AFPC/DP3SP, dated 14 Sep 23.

Exhibit C: Notification of Advisory, SAF/MRBC to Applicant, dated 19 Sep 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.

7/19/2024

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Board Operations Manager, AFBCMR
Signed by: USAF

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