



**CUI//SP-MIL/SP-PRVCY**  
**UNITED STATES AIR FORCE**  
**BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS**

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**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

*Work-Product*

**DOCKET NUMBER:** BC-2021-03371

**COUNSEL:** *Work-Product*

**HEARING REQUESTED:** NO

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**APPLICANT'S REQUEST**

His DD Form 214, *Report of Separation from Active Duty*, dated 29 Mar 74, be corrected to reflect the Vietnam Service Medal with three Bronze Service Stars.

**APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS**

While assigned to Thailand from Jun 72 to Jun 73, he refueled combat and combat support aircraft that participated in Operations ARC LIGHT, LINEBACKER, and LINEBACKER II. In 1991, his record was updated to reflect the Vietnam Service Medal with one Bronze Service Star; however it does not reflect his participation in these three operations. As such, he requests his record be corrected to reflect his participation by being awarded the Vietnam Service Medal with three Bronze Service Stars.

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit A.

**STATEMENT OF FACTS**

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

On 11 Jun 70, according to DD Form 214, the applicant entered the Regular Air Force.

On 29 Mar 74, according to DD Form 214, the applicant was released from active duty and transferred to the Air Force Reserve. He was credited with 3 years, 9 months, and 19 days of active service, to include 1 year of foreign service. Item 26, *Decorations, Medals, Badges, Commendations, Citations and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized*, reflects: National Defense Service Medal; Vietnam Service Medal; Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon; and Air Force Good Conduct Medal.

On 19 Feb 91, the Air Force Military Personnel Center (AFMPC) Recognition Programs Branch informed the applicant they were able to verify his service in Vietnam, in support of the Cambodia Operation and for his service in Vietnam he was awarded the Vietnam Service Medal. They also informed the applicant at his discretion they can have his record corrected to reflect the Vietnam Service Medal with one Bronze Service Star, to denote his participation in the operation, or have it corrected to simply reflect the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal. In accordance with applicable regulations, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and Vietnam Service Medal may not be worn together.

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Controlled by: SAF/MRB  
CUI Categories: SP-MIL/SP-PRVCY  
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On 16 May 91, the AFMPC Recognition Programs Branch informed the applicant based upon his 13 Mar 91 reply, his record would be corrected to reflect the Vietnam Service Medal with one Bronze Service Star, the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm, and the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award.

On 20 May 91, according to DD Form 215, *Correction to DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*, Item 26 was corrected to reflect award of the Vietnam Service Medal with one Bronze Service Star, the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm, and the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award.

On 22 Apr 16, in response to the applicant's request for the award of the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Valor, AFPC/DP3SP informed the applicant that they were able to verify his eligibility and administratively correct his record to reflect the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Valor and one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster.

On 21 May 16, according to DD Form 215, Item 26 was corrected to reflect the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Valor and one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster.

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 (Recognition Program) recommends denying the Vietnam Service Medal with three Bronze Service Stars. In accordance with Air Force Manual (AFMAN) 36-2806, *Awards and Memorialization Program*, the Vietnam Service Medal is awarded to any member of the U.S. Armed Forces who, on or after 4 Jul 65 through 28 Mar 73, served for one or more days with an organization participating in or directly supporting military operations in Vietnam, contiguous waters, or air space, including service in Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, or their air space. No person is entitled to more than one award of the Vietnam Service Medal and service members who qualified for the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for reason of service in Vietnam between 1 Jul 58 and 3 Jul 65 (inclusive) remains qualified for that medal. No person is entitled to both the Vietnam Service Medal and the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for service in Vietnam. Upon request, any such member may be awarded the Vietnam Service Medal instead of the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal. In such instances, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal is deleted from the list of authorized medals in personnel records. A service star is authorized for each campaign (see Table A15.1) under the following conditions: Assigned or attached to and present for duty with a unit during the period in which it participated in combat.

Table A15.1, Vietnam Service Medal Designated Campaigns

<b>CAMPAIGN</b>	<b>DATES</b>
Vietnam Advisory Campaign	15 Mar 62 - 7 Mar 65
Vietnam Defense Campaign	8 Mar 65 - 24 Dec 65
Vietnam Counteroffensive Campaign	24 Dec 65 - 30 Jun 66
Vietnam Counteroffensive Campaign, Phase II	1 Jul 66 - 31 May 67
Vietnam Counteroffensive Campaign, Phase III	1 Jun 67 - 29 Jan 68
Tet Counteroffensive	30 Jan 68 - 1 Apr 68
Vietnam Counteroffensive, Phase IV	2 Apr 68 - 30 Jun 68
Vietnam Counteroffensive, Phase V	1 Jul 68 - 1 Nov 68
Vietnam Counteroffensive, Phase VI	2 Nov 68 - 22 Feb 69
Tet 69 Counteroffensive 69	23 Feb 69 - 8 Jun 69

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Vietnam Summer-Fall 69	9 Jun 69 - 31 Oct 69
Vietnam Winter-Spring 70	1 Nov 69 - 30 Apr 70
Sanctuary Counteroffensive	1 May 70 - 30 Jun 70
Vietnam Counteroffensive, Phase VII	1 Jul 70 - 30 Jun 71
Consolidation I	1 Jul 71 - 30 Nov 71
Consolidation II	1 Dec 71 - 29 Mar 72
Vietnam Cease-Fire Campaign	30 Mar 72 - 28 Jan 73

The applicant's DD Form 215, dated 20 May 91, reflects he was awarded the Vietnam Service Medal with one Bronze Service Star based on his service in Thailand from 26 Jun 72 to 29 Jun 73. Although the applicant states he refueled combat and combat support aircraft that supported Operation ARC LIGHT, from 18 Jun 65 to 15 Aug 73; Operation LINEBACKER, from 9 May 72 to 23 Oct 72; and Operation LINEBACKER II, from 18 Dec 72 to 29 Dec 72; they are unable to determine the applicant supported an authorized operation, which is necessary to award two additional Bronze Service Stars to the Vietnam Service Medal. To grant relief would be contrary to the criteria established by 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 22 Aug 22 for comment (Exhibit D), but has received no response.

**FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION**

1. The application was not 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 applicant contends he met the criteria for the Vietnam Service Medal with three Bronze Service Stars based on his support during Operations ARC LIGHT, LINEBACKER I, and LINEBACKER II; however, there is no evidence the applicant supported one of the Vietnam Service Medal designated campaigns noted in AFMAN 36-2806, Table A15.1. Accordingly, 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 also 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)*. While the applicant asserts a date of discovery within the three-year limit, the Board does not find the assertion supported by a preponderance of the evidence. The Board does not find it in the interest of justice to waive the three-year filing requirement. Therefore, the Board finds the application untimely and 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 DAFI 36-2603, paragraph 2.1, considered Docket Number BC-2021-03371 in Executive Session on 4 May 23:

*Work-Product* [redacted] Chair, AFBCMR  
*Work-Product* [redacted] Panel Member  
*Work-Product* [redacted] Panel Member

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

- Exhibit A: Application, DD Form 149, with atchs, dated 3 Sep 21.
- Exhibit B: Documentary evidence, including relevant excerpts from official records.
- Exhibit C: Advisory Opinion, AFPC/DP3SP, dated 22 Aug 22.
- Exhibit D: Notification of Advisory, SAF/MRBC to Applicant, dated 22 Aug 22.

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.

9/15/2023

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*Work-Product*

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Board Operations Manager, AFBCMR

Signed by: *Work-Product* [redacted]