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**UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS****RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS****IN THE MATTER OF:**

Work-Product

**DOCKET NUMBER:** BC-2022-00230**COUNSEL:** NONE**HEARING REQUESTED:** NO**APPLICANT'S REQUEST**

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

- a. Ching Chuan Kang Air Base (AB), Taiwan (Boots on Ground Letter Issued)
- b. Misawa AB, Japan (Boots on Ground Letter Issued)
- c. Kunsan AB, Republic of Korea

**APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS**

He came in contact with Agent Orange in Taiwan and while on-loading and off-loading equipment from planes that had been in the affected area. He was also sent on a temporary duty (TDY) assignment to Kunsan, AB Korea. He is attempting to obtain benefits for his exposure to Agent Orange, which has caused conditions that have altered his life.

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit A.

**STATEMENT OF FACTS**

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

On 7 Mar 69, according to DD Form 214, the applicant entered the Regular Air Force and on 23 Jan 73, the applicant was discharged. He was credited with 3 years, 10 months, and 16 days of active service. Item 22c, *Foreign and/or Sea Service*, indicates 00 years, 00 months, 00 days. 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 8 May 89, according to DD Form 215, *Correction to DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*, issued to the applicant, the following items were corrected: Item 22c to 1 year, 8 months, and 14 days; and Item 24 to reflect the Vietnam Service Medal with one Bronze Service Star, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Valor Device and one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, and the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm.

On 28 Jun 22, the Air Force Personnel Center Directorate of Assignments (AFPC/DP3AM) notified the applicant they were able to verify and Foreign Service in Taiwan from 23 Sep 69 to 5 Dec 70 for 1 year, 2 months, and 13 days; and in Japan from 16 Dec 70 to 16 Jun 71 for 6 months and 1 day, for a total of 1 year, 8 months, and 14 days. However, they were unable to verify his service in the Republic of Korea. Since specific locations are not annotated on the DD Form 214,

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the applicant was instructed to use their letter as proof of boots on ground in Taiwan and Japan. The amount of Foreign Service credit reflected on his DD Form 214 [DD Form 215] is correct.

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

**APPLICABLE AUTHORITY/GUIDANCE**

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. However, Foreign Service locations are not an authorized entry on the DD Form 214. Foreign Service is annotated in increments of years, months, and days.

The Air Force Personnel Center Directorate of Assignments is responsible for determining an Air Force member's Foreign Service. Since specific locations are not annotated on the DD Form 214, directorate personnel 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/DP3AM recommends denying Foreign Service credit for the Republic of Korea. While Foreign Service credit was verified and confirmed for Taiwan and Japan, they were unable to verify any Foreign Service for the Republic of Korea.

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 29 Jun 22 for comment (Exhibit D), and the applicant replied on 17 Jan 23. In his response, the applicant now contends he was TDY to the Republic of Vietnam where it was his job to inspect survival equipment on the aircraft. He received combat pay and did not pay income taxes for the month he was TDY. While stationed in Japan, he went TDY to Kunsan AB, Republic of Korea. He was sent there twice for about a week each time. He was responsible for helping the aircrew members suit-up in their survival suits. He is trying to get his records corrected because he needs proof of possible exposure to Agent Orange/Dioxins which were used in the Republic of Vietnam and the Republic of Korea during the Vietnam Era. Any equipment used by the air crews would have been exposed to the dioxins, which he would have had contact with on a regular basis.

The applicant's complete response is at Exhibit E.

**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 claims he went TDY to the Republic of Korea and the Republic of Vietnam. However, after a comprehensive review of the applicant's record, the Board concurs

with the rationale and recommendation of AFPC/DP3AM and finds a preponderance of the evidence does not substantiate the applicant’s contentions his Foreign Service included locations outside of what AFPC/DP3AM verified. Notwithstanding, a review of the documentation did confirm the applicant served in Taiwan from 23 Sep 69 to 5 Dec 70 for 1 year, 2 months, and 13 days; and in Japan from 16 Dec 70 to 16 Jun 71 for 6 months and 1 day, for a total of 1 year, 8 months, and 14 days of Foreign Service. Therefore, the amount of Foreign Service time reflected on the applicant’s DD Form 214, which was administratively corrected in 1989, is correct. In addition, as noted above, Foreign Service locations are not an authorized entry on the DD Form 214. Therefore, the applicant may use the letter from the Directorate of Assignments as proof of his service in Taiwan and Japan. Should the applicant provide evidence he served in the Republic of Korea and the Republic of Vietnam, he can request a boots on ground letter via the myFSS portal (<https://myfss.us.af.mil>). 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)*. The Board does not find it in the interest of justice to waive the three-year filing requirement. Therefore, other than the boots on ground letter verifying the applicant’s service in Taiwan and Japan, 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-2022-00230 in Executive Session on 16 Feb 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 10 Dec 21.
- Exhibit B: Documentary evidence, including relevant excerpts from official records.
- Exhibit C: Advisory Opinion, AFPC/DP3AM, w/atchs, dated 28 Jun 22.
- Exhibit D: Notification of Advisory, SAF/MRBC to Applicant, dated 29 Jun 22.
- Exhibit E: Applicant’s Response, dated 17 Jan 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.

4/11/2023

X **Work-Product**

Board Operations Manager, AFBCMR

Signed by: **Work-Product**