



Work-Product

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2023-00033

Work-Product

COUNSEL: NONE

HEARING REQUESTED: NO

APPLICANT'S REQUEST

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

1. Vietnam Service Medal (VSM)
2. Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal (RVCM)

APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS

Due to his service in Thailand, he should be qualified for the VSM and RVCM. The applicant submitted excerpts of an aircraft mishap report, as well as historical extracts, which showed he was a passenger on a KC-135, originating from **Work-Product**, Thailand, when it crashed while attempting an emergency landing on 24 Sep 68.

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit A.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The applicant is an honorably discharged Air Force airman first class (E-3).

On 27 Jul 66, according to DD Form 214, the applicant entered the Regular Air Force.

On 27 Feb 68, according to Standard Form 603, *Dental Health Record*, the applicant received dental care at **Work-Product**, Thailand.

On 23 Jun 68, according to Standard Form 600, *Chronological Record of Medical Care*, the applicant received medical care at the 11th US Air Force (USAF) Hospital at **Work-Product** (**Wor...**), Thailand.

On 29 Jul 68, according to Standard Form 600, the applicant received medical care at the 11th USAF Hospital at **Work-Product** **Wor...**, Thailand.

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On 22 Oct 68, according to Standard Form 600, the medical provider noted the applicant had a fear of flying after being involved in a KC-135 accident.

On 24 Jul 70, according to DD Form 214, the applicant was released from active duty, with an honorable service characterization and transferred to the Air Force Reserve. Item 24, *Decorations, Medals, Badges, Citations and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized*, indicates: National Defense Service Medal and Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon.

On 7 Jun 23, AFPC/DP3AM notified the applicant that although they were able to verify and confirm “boots on ground” foreign service time in Thailand, inclusive dates of this service could not be determined after a review of the applicant’s official military record and submitted documentation.

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

AIR FORCE EVALUATION

AFPC/DP3SP recommends denying the applicant’s request for award of the VSM and RCVM as the documentation provided does not indicate the applicant meets the criteria for award. According to Department of the Air Force Manual (DAFMAN) 36-2806, *Awards and Memorialization Program*, 27 Oct 22, paragraph A15.2, the VSM 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 28 Mar 73. To qualify for award of the VSM, a member must meet one of the following qualifications: (1) Be attached to or regularly serve for one or more days with an organization participating in or directly supporting military operations; (2) Be attached to or regularly serve for 1 or more days aboard a naval vessel directly supporting military operations; (3) Actually participate as a crewmember in one or more aerial flights into airspace above Vietnam and contiguous waters directly supporting military operations; (4) 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, on 7 Feb 66, the Secretary of Defense approved acceptance and wear of the RCVM, which is awarded to members of the U.S. Armed Forces who between 1 Mar 61 and 28 Mar 73: (1) Served for 6 months in South Vietnam during the above date; or (2) 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 AFEM (Vietnam) or the VSM during the period of service required are considered to have contributed direct combat support to the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces.

The applicant’s official military personnel record and provided documentation do not show he was in an eligible area of responsibility to receive the VSM or RCVM.

The complete advisory opinion is at Exhibit C.

APPLICANT’S REVIEW OF AIR FORCE EVALUATION

The Board sent a copy of the advisory opinions to the applicant on 18 Sep 24 for comment (Exhibit D), and the applicant replied on 11 Oct 23. In his response, he submitted a copy of his 27 Feb 68 dental record entry from [Work-Product] and a 23 Sep 68 KC-135 passenger manifest originating from [Work-Product]. He states these two documents show he was in Thailand for seven months, and thus, qualifies him for the VSM and RCVM, which were not entered on his DD Form 214. He also indicates that a picture of him in dress blues shows the two ribbons, which have been misplaced, but the photo was not included in his attached evidence.

The applicant’s complete response is at Exhibit E.

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 the victim of an error or injustice. While the Board notes the AFPC/DP3SP recommendation against correcting the record, the Board finds a preponderance of the evidence substantiates the applicant’s contentions. Specifically, the applicants’ military personnel records and submitted evidence showed dental and medical visits at [Work-Product] ([Work-Product]), Thailand, from Feb-Jul 68; as well as his name on a passenger manifest, dated 23 Sep 68, originating in Thailand with a destination of Guam. The Board finds these documents sufficient to recommend award of both the VSM and the RVCM. Therefore, the Board recommends correcting the applicant’s records as indicated below.

RECOMMENDATION

The pertinent military records of the Department of the Air Force relating to APPLICANT be corrected to reflect the award of the Vietnam Service Medal and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal.

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-2023-00033 in Executive Session on 18 Jun 24:

- [Work-Product] Panel Chair
- [Work-Product] Panel Member
- [Work-Product] Panel Member

All members voted to correct the record. The panel considered the following:

- Exhibit A: Application, DD Form 149, w/atchs, dated 13 Dec 22.
- Exhibit B: Documentary evidence, including relevant excerpts from official records.
- Exhibit C: Advisory Opinion, AFPC/DP3SP, dated 18 Sep 23.
- Exhibit D: Notification of Advisory, SAF/MRBC to Applicant, dated 18 Sep 23.
- Exhibit E: Applicant's Response, w/atchs, dated 11 Oct 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.

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