

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 9 August 2024

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20230013456

APPLICANT REQUESTS:

- award of the Air Medal (AM) Numeral 10 through Numeral 21
- correction of his DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty) to show:
  - Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (Bosnia) (AFEM)
  - Armed Forces Service Medal (Joint Endeavor) (AFSM)

APPLICANT'S SUPPORTING DOCUMENT(S) CONSIDERED BY THE BOARD:

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record), 30 October 2023
- DA Form 759 (Individual Flight Record and Flight Certificate-Army), 30 September 1977
- DD Form 214, 5 August 1996
- DD Form 215 (Correction to DD Form 214), 4 April 2019

FACTS:

1. The applicant did not file within the 3-year time frame provided in Title 10, U.S. Code, section 1552(b); however, the Army Board for Correction of Military Records (ABCMR) conducted a substantive review of this case and determined it is in the interest of justice to excuse the applicant's failure to timely file.

2. The applicant states:

a. He flew 530 combat hours of flight time. The regulations for the award changed in 1968 and the Air Medal was awarded for each 25 hours of flight time.

b. He completed service in Bosnia from 26 January 1996 to 14 March 1996 and from 14 March 1996 to 4 April 1996 as shown on his DD Form 214.

c. He completed service during Operation Joint Endeavor from 25 December 1995 to 11 July 1996 as shown on his DD Form 214.

3. The applicant provides:

a. His DA Form 759, dated 30 September 1977, showing he completed 425 combat flight hours in a single engine fixed-wing aircraft (type of aircraft is not shown) and he completed 105 combat flight hours in a fixed-wing multi-engine aircraft (type of aircraft is not shown), for a total of 530 combat flight hours.

b. A DD Form 214 issued to him on 5 August 1996 and a DD Form 215 issued to him on 4 April 2019.

4. The applicant's DD Form 214 for the period ending 5 August 1996 lists the Armed Forces Service Medal, therefore his request to correct his records to show this award will not be discussed further in this record of proceedings.

5. The applicant's records contain sufficient evidence to support an administrative correction to his DD Form 214 for the period ending 5 August 1996 and will be listed in the administrative notes section.

6. A review of the applicant's service records show:

a. The available records contain a DD Form 214 for the period ending 1 February 1980 and a DA Form 2-1 (Personnel Qualification Record), which show:

b. On 2 June 1965, he was commissioned in the Regular Army Infantry Corps.

c. He attended and completed 32 weeks of Officer Fixed Wing Aviator Class (OFWAC) Class 67-19 in 1967 and he attended U.S. Army Aviation School for 4 weeks in 1968.

d. He completed two deployments to Vietnam during the periods:

- March 1966 to February 1967 for 12 months
- March 1968 to January 1969 for 10 months

e. His DA Form 2-1 shows:

(1) In item 9 (Awards, Decorations, and Campaigns), he was awarded or authorized:

- Purple Heart
- Combat Infantryman Badge
- Distinguished Flying Cross
- Bronze Star Medal

- AM with Numeral 8
- Army Commendation Medal (Fifth Award)
- Meritorious Service Medal (Second Award)
- Army Aviation Badge
- Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm
- Overseas Service Ribbon
- Army Service Ribbon
- Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal (Third Award)
- Armed Forces Reserve Medal
- National Defense Service Medal with one bronze service star
- Army Reserve Components Overseas Training Ribbon
- Army Achievement Medal (Second Award), and

f. On 1 February 1980, he was honorably discharged. His DD Form 214 for this period shows he was awarded or authorized:

- Parachutist Badge
- ARAVAD (Army Aviator Badge)
- Vietnam Service Medal with one silver service star and one bronze service star
- Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation
- Purple Heart
- Combat Infantryman Badge
- National Defense Service Medal
- Distinguished Flying Cross
- Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960)
- Army Commendation Medal (Third Award)
- Air Medal with Numeral 8
- Meritorious Service Medal
- Bronze Star Medal

g. He had a break in service between 3 February 1980 and 21 February 1980.

h. On 22 February 1980, he was assigned to a unit in the U.S. Army Reserve (Ready Reserve).

i. On 14 December 1995, he was issued Permanent Orders 345-3 from First U.S. Army and ordered to active duty in support of Operation Determined Effort.

j. On 5 August 1996, he was honorably released from active duty by reason of completion of required active service and he was transferred to control of 21st Theater Army Area Command. His DD Form 214 for this period shows in:

(1) Block 13 (Decorations, Medals, Badges, Citations, and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized):

- Armed Forces Service Medal
- Distinguished Flying Cross
- Bronze Star Medal
- Meritorious Service Medal (Second Award)
- AM with Numeral 8
- Army Commendation Medal (Fifth Award)
- Army Achievement Medal (Second Award)
- Purple Heart
- National Defense Service Medal
- Armed Forces Reserve Medal
- Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal (Third Award)
- Meritorious Unit Commendation
- Army Service Ribbon
- Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm Unit Citation
- Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with Device (1960)
- Army Reserve Component Overseas Training Ribbon
- Sharpshooter Marksmanship Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar (M-16) and Pistol Bar (.45 caliber)
- Combat Infantryman Badge
- Parachutist Badge
- Army Aviator Badge
- NATO Medal

(2) Block 18 (Remarks), in part:

- Ordered to active duty in support of Operation Joint Endeavor IAW 10 USC Section 12384
- Service in Germany 25 December 1995 to 31 July 1996
- Service in Hungary 25 April 1996 to 29 June 1996
- Service in Bosnia 26 January 1996 to 6 March 1996 and 13 March 1996 to 4 April 1996

k. His retirement orders showing the date he was released to the Retired Reserve List are not contained in the available records.

l. On 4 August 2019, he was issued a DD Form 215 adding several awards to his DD Form 214 for the period ending 5 August 1966, however these amendments neither included the AM with Numeral 9 through 21 nor the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal.

7. His flight record jacket containing his DA Forms 759-1 (Individual Flight Record and Flight Certificate-Army-Part II), which would show a breakdown of flying time by month and by type of mission, and the total for the month, is not available for review. These forms would also show the total flying time brought forward from prior sheets, and the total flight time to date. The "Mission Data" column on the DA Form 759-1 lists a single character for the mission identification (ID). During the Vietnam War, the following Mission IDs were used:

- Mission Symbol Service Missions
- A Acceptance Test Flight
- F Maintenance Flight
- S Service Mission
- T Training Flight
- X Experimental Test Flight
- C Combat Mission

8. A review of the Awards and Decorations Computer-Assisted Retrieval System, an index of general orders issued during the Vietnam era between 1965 and 1973 maintained by the U.S. Army Human Resources Command Military Awards Branch, failed to reveal any orders for the AM with Numeral 9 pertaining to the applicant.

#### BOARD DISCUSSION:

1. After reviewing the application, all supporting documents, and the evidence found within the military record, the Board found that partial relief was warranted. The Board carefully considered the applicant's record of service, documents submitted in support of the petition, and executed a comprehensive review based on law, policy, and regulation. The evidence of record shows the applicant served in Bosnia from 26 January 1996 to 6 March 1996 and from 13 March 1996 to 4 March 1996. The Board noted the applicant's DD Form 214 currently reflects award of the Armed Forces Service Medal.

2. After reviewing the application, all supporting documents, and the evidence found within the military record, the Board found that relief was not warranted for the applicant's request to be awarded the Air Medal Numeral 10 through Numeral 21. The Board carefully considered the applicant's record of service, documents submitted in support of the petition, and executed a comprehensive review based on law, policy, and regulation. The Board noted the applicant's provided individual flight record and assertion that for each 25 hours of flight time, an Air Medal is awarded; however, the Board was not convinced by a preponderance of the evidence the applicant completed a minimum of 25 hours of category I missions, 50 hours of category II missions, or 100

hours of category III missions determined for award of the Air Medal and therefore denied relief.

BOARD VOTE:

Mbr 1      Mbr 2      Mbr 3

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|---|---|---|----------------------|
| : | : | : | GRANT FULL RELIEF    |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | GRANT PARTIAL RELIEF |
| : | : | : | GRANT FORMAL HEARING |
| : | : | : | DENY APPLICATION     |

BOARD DETERMINATION/RECOMMENDATION:

1. The Board determined the evidence presented is sufficient to warrant partial relief. As a result, the Board recommends that all Department of the Army records of the individual concerned be corrected by amending the applicant's DD Form 214, for the period ending 22 July 1998 to show award of the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal.
2. The Board further determined that the evidence presented is insufficient to warrant a portion of the requested relief. As a result, the Board recommends denial of so much of the application that pertains to award of the Air Medal.

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I certify that herein is recorded the true and complete record of the proceedings of the Army Board for Correction of Military Records in this case.

REFERENCES:

1. Title 10, U.S. Code, section 1552(b), provides that applications for correction of military records must be filed within 3 years after discovery of the alleged error or injustice. This provision of law also allows the ABCMR to excuse an applicant's failure to timely file within the 3-year statute of limitations if the ABCMR determines it would be in the interest of justice to do so.

2. U.S. Army Vietnam Regulation 672-5-1 (Decorations and Awards) provided guidelines for award of the Air Medal and defined terms and provided guidelines for the award based upon the number and types of missions or hours.

a. Twenty-five category I missions (air assault and equally dangerous missions) and accrual of a minimum of 25 hours of flight time while engaged in category I missions was the standard established for which sustained operations were deemed worthy of recognition by an award of the Air Medal. However, the regulation was clear that these guidelines were considered only a departure point. Combat missions were divided into three categories.

(1) A category I mission was defined as a mission performed in an assault role in which a hostile force was engaged and was characterized by delivery of ordnance against the hostile force or delivery of friendly troops or supplies into the immediate combat operations area.

(2) A category II mission was characterized by support rendered a friendly force immediately before, during, or immediately following a combat operation.

(3) A category III mission was characterized by support of friendly forces not connected with an immediate combat operation but which must have been accomplished at altitudes which made the aircraft at times vulnerable to small arms fire or under hazardous weather or terrain conditions.

b. To be recommended for award of the Air Medal, an individual must have completed a minimum of 25 hours category I missions, 50 hours category II missions, or 100 hours category III missions. Since various types of missions would have been completed in accumulating flight time toward award of an Air Medal for sustained operations, different computations would have had to be made to combine category I, II, and III flight times and adjust it to a common denominator.

c. Numerals, starting with 2, will be used to denote second and subsequent awards of the AM.

3. Army Regulation 600-8-22 (Military Awards) prescribes Department of the Army policy, criteria, and administrative instructions concerning individual and unit military awards.

a. Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (AFEM).

(1) The AFEM was established by EO 10977, dated 4 December 1961, as amended by EO 10977, 3 May 2000, and may be awarded to Servicemembers of the Armed Forces of the United States who, after 1 July 1958:

(a) Participate, or have participated, as members of the U.S. military units in a U.S. military operation in which Servicemembers of any military department participate, in the opinion of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in significant numbers.

(b) Encounter during such participation foreign-armed opposition, or are otherwise placed, or have been placed, in such position that, in the opinion of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, hostile action by foreign armed forces were imminent even though it did not materialize.

(2) The AFEM may be authorized for the following three categories of operations:

- U.S. military operations (table 2–3)
- U.S. operations in direct support of the United Nations (UN) (table 2–4)
- U.S. operations of assistance for friendly foreign nations (table 2–5)

(3) Servicemembers must be bona fide members of a unit participating in or be engaged in the direct support of the operation for 30 consecutive days in the area of operations (or for the full period when an operation is less than 30 days duration) or for 60 nonconsecutive days provided this support involved entering the area of operations or and meets one or more of the following criteria:

(a) Be engaged in actual combat, or duty, which is equally as hazardous as combat duty, during the operation with armed opposition, regardless of time in the area.

(b) Is wounded or injured and requires medical evacuation from the area of engagement (AOE) while participating in the operation, regardless of time.

(c) Accumulates required days service (consecutive or nonconsecutive) while participating as a regularly assigned air crewmember of an aircraft flying sorties into, out of, within, or over the area in direct support of the military operation. One day's service is credited for the first sortie flown on any day. Additional sorties flown on the same day receive no further credit.



(4) The AFEM will be awarded only for operations for which no other U.S. campaign medal is approved. However, this does not prevent award eligibility for subsequent ongoing operations if the associated campaign medal has been terminated. No individual will be eligible for both the AFEM and a campaign medal awarded during a single tour in the designated operation. For operations in which personnel of only one military Service participate, the medal will be awarded only if there is no other suitable award available to that Service. The military service of the Servicemember on whom qualification for the award of the AFEM is based will have been honorable.

(5) Table 2-3 lists Operation Joint Endeavor for the dates 20 November 1995 to 19 December 1996 as qualifying for the AFEM.

b. Armed Forces Service Medal (AFSM).

(1) The AFSM was established by EO 12985, 11 January 1996, as amended by EO 13286, 28 February 2003. It is awarded to Servicemembers of the Armed Forces of the United States who, after 1 June 1992, meet the following criteria:

(a) Participate or have participated, as Servicemembers of U.S. military units, in a U.S. military operation that is deemed to be a significant activity.

(b) Encounter no foreign-armed opposition or imminent threat of hostile action.

(2) The AFSM may be authorized for significant U.S. military activities for which no other U.S. campaign or service medal is appropriate, such as:

- peacekeeping operations
- prolonged humanitarian operations.

(3) The AFSM may be awarded for U.S. military operations in direct support of the UN or NATO, and for operations of assistance to friendly foreign nations. Award is only appropriate if the NATO, UN, or foreign operation involves a concurrent U.S. Military support operation.

(4) Servicemembers must be permanently assigned or attached to a unit that deployed to participate in a designated U.S. military operation within the area of operations for 30 consecutive days (or for the full period when an operation is less than 30 days duration), or for 60 nonconsecutive days provided this support involves a Soldier entering the area of operations under the following criteria:

(a) While participating as a regularly assigned air crewmember on an aircraft flying, into, out of, within, or over the area in direct support of the designated military operations for 30 consecutive days or 60 nonconsecutive days.

(b) One day's service is credited for the first sortie flown on any day. Additional sorties flown on the same day receive no further credit.

(5) The AFSM provides recognition to participants who deploy to the designated AOE for the qualifying operation. Outstanding or meritorious performance of nondeployed or remotely located support units and individuals is not justification for award of the AFSM. Such performance may be recognized by appropriate unit and/or individual decorations.

(6) Because the AFSM may be awarded for a prolonged humanitarian operation, distinction between the AFSM and the HSM must be maintained. The following rules apply:

(a) The HSM is an individual U.S. service medal, presented to individuals who are physically present at the site of immediate relief and who directly contribute to and influence the humanitarian action.

(b) The HSM is only awarded for service during the identified "period of immediate relief"; eligibility for the HSM terminates and transitions to the AFSM or the AFEM, when the humanitarian action transitions into an "established ongoing operation beyond the initial emergency condition."

(c) The AFSM is a theater award, authorized for presentation to all participants who meet the eligibility requirements established for a designated operation.

(d) For operations in which all deployed participants are awarded the HSM and for which the "period of immediate relief" coincides with the duration of significant deployed operations, award of the AFSM is not authorized.

(7) The following limitations apply when determining whether the AFSM should be awarded for a particular mission or operation or when determining eligibility for award to an individual:

(a) The AFSM will be awarded only for operations for which no other U.S. campaign or service medal is approved.

(b) For operations in which personnel for only one Service participate, the AFSM will be awarded only if there is no other suitable award available to that Service.

(c) Award of the AFSM is not authorized for participation in national or international exercises. Individuals are only presented an AFSM on initial award. Subsequent awards of the AFSM are indicated by bronze service stars.

4. According the U.S. Army Center for Military History website, Operation Joint Endeavor was the deployment of 24,000 U.S. forces which began on 2 December 1995 and concluded on 14 February 1996. By the time that the movement was completed, over 24,000 soldiers and 12,000 major equipment items had been moved in support of Operation Joint Endeavor. The heart of the U.S. contingent consisted of the 1st and 2d Brigades, 1st Armored Division (Chart), which included thirteen combat support and combat service support formations: the 1st Squadron, 1st Cavalry; the 3d Battalion, 5th Cavalry; the 4th Battalion (-), 67th Armor; the 2d Battalion, 3d Field Artillery; the 23d Engineer Battalion; the 501st Support Battalion; the 4th Battalion, 12th Infantry; the 2d Battalion (attached), 15th Infantry; the 2d Battalion (-), 68th Armor; the 3d Squadron (attached), 4th Cavalry; the 4th Battalion, 29th Field Artillery; the 40th Engineer Battalion; and the 47th Support Battalion. Several smaller companies, batteries, and detachments of various units also were included in this force package. To keep the force levels within prescribed limits, the USAREUR (Forward) headquarters and major logistical facilities were positioned in neighboring Hungary and Croatia. The initial deployment required 409 trains and 7,340 railcars, 507 buses, 1,700 tractor-trailers, and 1,358 aircraft sorties.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//