

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
AIR FORCE BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: 97-03560

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
COUNSEL: NONE

FEB 5 1999

HEARING DESIRED: NO

APPLICANT REQUESTS THAT:

1. His Certificate of Release or Discharge from the Armed Forces, DD Form 214, be corrected to show that he was awarded the Air Force Training Ribbon and the Vietnam Service Medal, rather than the Air Force Training Vietnam Service Medal.
2. He be awarded the Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon, with device and the Persian Gulf Medal.

APPLICANT CONTENDS THAT:

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has stated that the Air Force Training Ribbon and Vietnam Service Medal are one and the same; therefore, he could not be considered for a job. In addition, the Persian Gulf Medal was left off his DD Form 214 due to the large number of discharges; however, he needs his records to reflect this award for the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA).

The applicant's complete submission is attached at Exhibit A.

STATEMENT OF FACTS:

The applicant enlisted in the Regular Air Force on 18 November 1969.

The applicant's DD Form 214 issued upon his 24 April 1973 discharge for immediate reenlistment, indicates that he completed no service in Indochina, Vietnam, and Korea.

On 31 December 1991, the applicant was relieved from active duty and retired for years of service in the grade of master sergeant, effective 1 January 1992. The applicant completed 21 years, 2 months, and 17 days of active service.

The applicant's DD Form 214 issued upon his retirement reflects that he was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal; the Air Force Commendation Medal, with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters (OLC); the Air Force

Good Conduct Medal, with 5 OLC; the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, with 2 OLC; the USAF Professional Military Education Graduation Ribbon; the Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon; the Humanitarian Service Medal, with 4 OLC; the Air Force Longevity Service Award Ribbon, with 4 OLC; the National Defense Service Medal, with 1 Bronze Service Star; the Air Force Overseas Service Ribbon - Short, with 1 OLC; the Presidential Unit Citation; the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, with 2 OLC; and the Air Force Training Vietnam Service Medal. However, there is no Air Force Training Vietnam Service Medal.

AIR FORCE EVALUATION:

The Recognition Programs Branch, AFPC/DPPRA, reviewed this application and states that on 18 December 1997, the applicant was requested to provide documentation verifying his presence in Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos or Thailand during the Vietnam era, his eligibility for the Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon and a bronze service star, and his presence in the Persian Gulf in direct support of Operation Desert Shield/Storm; however, he did not respond to their request.

AFPC/DPPRA states the applicant's records reveal that he is not eligible for the Vietnam Service Medal. His records do not verify his eligibility for the Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon or an additional award of that ribbon, and he did not furnish documentation to substantiate this claim. In addition, the applicant's records do not reveal that he was ever in the Persian Gulf, nor did he provide documentation to substantiate this claim. Except for Enlisted Performance Reports, there is little documentation in the applicant's records, and they cannot verify the majority of the awards and decorations listed on his final DD Form 214. Therefore, they recommend amending his DD Form 214 issued upon his retirement to reflect award of the Air Force Training Ribbon, rather than the Air Force Training Vietnam Service Medal; however, they recommend denial of the remainder of his requests.

A complete copy of the Air Force evaluation is attached at Exhibit C.

APPLICANT'S REVIEW OF AIR FORCE EVALUATION:

The applicant reviewed the Air Force evaluation and states that his DD Form 214, dated 24 January 1977, reflects that he completed 6 months and 25 days of foreign service. In addition, copies of medical reports indicate that he was hospitalized in Thailand during the month of July 1975 from injuries sustained on duty, which lead to the removal of his appendix. Since this occurred during the war and was from injuries sustained on duty, he wants to know if he is entitle to the Purple Heart.

In regard to the device to the Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon, he states that he is unable to verify his entitlement to the bronze service star, since his weapons training card had to be turned in during Desert Shield.

Concerning his service during the Gulf War, he notes that at the time of his retirement, there was a major draw down in the forces and the personnel office was over-tasked. There were mass out-processed and there were mistakes on almost everyone's DD Form 214. There were a large number of personnel, like himself, that were assigned to the 28th AD, 552nd AWACS that were involved in Desert Shield/Storm that did not receive their Gulf War medals. His duty was logistics and he deployed many times carrying materials from the US to Saudi and then returning to the US on a regular basis.

The applicant's complete response is attached at Exhibit E.

THE BOARD CONCLUDES THAT:

1. The applicant has exhausted all remedies provided by existing law or regulations.
2. The application was timely filed.
3. Insufficient relevant evidence has been presented to demonstrate the existence of probable error or injustice. After thoroughly reviewing the evidence of record and noting the applicant's contentions, we are not persuaded the applicant has been the victim of an error or injustice. The applicant's DD Form 214 issued upon his retirement erroneously indicates that he was awarded the Air Force Training Vietnam Service Medal. In fact, these are two separate awards - the Air Force Training Ribbon (AFTR) and the Vietnam Service Medal (VSM). The applicant is entitled to the AFTR; however, he is not eligible for the VSM. The appropriate office of the Air Force will administratively correct the applicant's records to reflect this. The applicant has provided no evidence, nor do his records indicate that he served in Southeast Asia in support of the Vietnam conflict. To the contrary, the DD Form 214 issued upon the applicant's 1973 reenlistment indicates he completed no service in Indochina, Vietnam, and Korea. We also find no evidence the applicant ever disputed the fact that he was not eligible for the VSM until he was considered for a position by the FAA. In support of his request for the VSM, the applicant has provided documentation regarding an appendectomy he received at the 432nd USAF Hospital in Thailand; however, this does not substantiate that he was assigned TDY for 30 consecutive or 60 nonconsecutive days in support of the Vietnam conflict. Although not formally requesting the award, the applicant raises the question of whether he is eligible to receive the Purple Heart (PH) based on

injuries sustained while on duty in Thailand which led to his appendectomy. The PH is awarded for wounds received as a direct result of enemy actions. The documentation the applicant has provided indicates that his appendectomy was the result of an appendicitis, not due to wounds received as a direct result of enemy actions. In regard to the device to the Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon (SAEMR), the applicant has provided no evidence that he qualified expert in both the M-16 rifle and issue handgun. The applicant also contends that due to a major draw down in forces, the personnel office was over-tasked and as a result, he was not awarded the Persian Gulf Medal (PGM). However, his records do not indicate that he ever served in the Persian Gulf area and is eligible for the award. The applicant has been advised to provided documentation to support his requests and has failed to do so. Therefore, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, we find no compelling basis to recommend granting the relief sought in this application.

THE BOARD DETERMINES THAT:

The applicant be notified that the evidence presented did not demonstrate the existence of probable material error or injustice; that the application was denied without a personal appearance; and that the application will only be reconsidered upon the submission of newly discovered relevant evidence not considered with this application.

The following members of the Board considered this application in Executive Session on 22 September 1998, under the provisions of AFI 36-2603:

Mr. David W. Mulgrew, Panel Chair
Mrs. Margaret A. Zook, Member
Mr. Gary Appleton, Member
Mr. Phillip E. Horton, Examiner (without vote)

The following documentary evidence was considered:

- Exhibit A. DD Form 149, dated 16 Nov 97, w/atchs.
- Exhibit B. Applicant's Master Personnel Records.
- Exhibit C. Letter, AFPC/DPPPPRA, dated 25 Feb 98.
- Exhibit D. Letter, SAF/MIBR, dated 9 Mar 98.
- Exhibit E. Letter, Applicant, dated 10 Mar 98, w/atchs.


DAVID W. MULGREW
Panel Chair



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS AIR FORCE PERSONNELCENTER
RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE TEXAS

MEMORANDUM FOR AFBCMR

25 February 1998

FROM: HQ AFPC/DPPPRA
550 C Street West Ste 12
Randolph AFB TX 781504714

SUBJECT: Application for Correction of Military Records (DD Form 149)

1. **REQUESTED ACTION.** Applicant requests his DD Form 214 be corrected to read, "AF Training Ribbon, Vietnam Service Medal" instead of "AF Training Vietnam Service Medal," add one bronze service star to the Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon, and add "Persian Gulf Medal."

2. **BASIS FOR REQUEST.** Applicant needs this information to be considered for a job by FAA and for Veterans Administration.

3. **FACTS.**

a. Applicant served on Active **Duty** 18 Nov 69-17 Aug 79; he then enlisted in the OK Air National **Guard** for 20 Aug 79-13 Jul 80; and then on Active **Duty** again 14 Jul 80-31 Dec 91.

b. The applicant's 18 Nov 69-24 Apr 73 Report of Separation **does** not reflect **any** overseas assignment(s) or the Vietnam Service Medal. His Enlisted Performance Reports do not reflect **any** overseas **duty**. We must, therefore, conclude that he is not eligible for the **Vietnam** Service Medal, and this entry is **an** error.

c. Applicant was requested on 18 Dec 97 to provide documentation verifying his presence in Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos or Thailand during the **Vietnam** era, his eligibility for the Small **Arms Expert** Marksmanship Ribbon and a bronze service star, and his presence in the Persian **Gulf** in direct support of Operation **DESERT SHIELD/STORM**. He did not respond to this request.

4. **DISCUSSION.** Applicant's records reveal that he is not eligible for the Vietnam **Service Medal**. His records do not verify his eligibility for the Small **Arms Expert** Marksmanship Ribbon or **an** additional award of that ribbon, and he did not furnish documentation to substantiate this claim. Applicant's records do not reveal that he **was** ever in the Persian Gulf, nor did he provide documentation to substantiate this claim. **Except** for Enlisted Performance Reports, there is little documentation in the applicant's records, and we can not verify the majority of awards and decorations listed on his 14 Jul 80-31 Dec 91 DD Form 214.

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5. RECOMMENDATION.

A. We recommend disapproval of the applicant's request for his DD Form 214 be corrected to read, "AF Training Ribbon, Vietnam Service Medal" instead of "AF Training Vietnam Service Medal," add one bronze service star to the Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon, and add "Persian Gulf Medal."

b. We recommend deletion of "AF Training Vietnam Service Medal" and only the addition of "AF Training Ribbon" on the applicant's 31 Dec 91 DD Form 214.

FOR THE COMMANDER



GEORGIA A. WISE, DAFC
Recognition Programs Branch
Promotions, Eval & Recognition Div

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