

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS  
AIR FORCE BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: 95-02701

COUNSEL: NONE

HEARING DESIRED: NO ~~APR~~ 25 1997

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APPLICANT REQUESTS THAT:

The closeout date of the Air Force Commendation Medal (AFCM) be changed from 4 Apr 95 to an unspecified date in Mar 95, and that the AFCM be considered in the promotion process for cycle 95E5 for promotion to the grade of staff sergeant.

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APPLICANT CONTENDS THAT:

The closeout date of 4 Apr 95 is incorrect. His Enlisted Performance Report (EPR) closed out 15 Mar 95 and his "official" departure date from England was 30 Mar 95. Therefore, the closeout date of the AFCM should have been in Mar 95.

In support of his appeal, the applicant provided copies of the special order awarding him the AFCM, the AFCM certificate, and his EPR closing 15 Mar 95 (Exhibit A).

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STATEMENT OF FACTS:

Applicant contracted his initial enlistment in the Regular Air Force on 22 Mar 91.

By Special Order, dated 22 Feb 95, the applicant was awarded the AFCM for meritorious service during the period 1 Aug 91 to 4 Apr 95.

Applicant is no longer on active duty. Information extracted from the Personnel Data System (PDS) indicates that, effective 2 Nov 96, he was assigned to the Air Force Reserve in the grade of senior airman (E-4). His Total Active Federal Military Service Date was 17 Jun 90. He was credited with 6 years, 4 months, and 15 days of satisfactory Federal service.

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AIR FORCE EVALUATION:

The Recognition Programs Branch, AFPC/DPPPRA, reviewed this application and recommended denial. DPPPRA indicated that, on 5 Oct 95, the applicant was requested to provide a copy of his original Recommendation for Decoration Printout (DECOR-6) showing his projected departure date and/or a copy of his permanent change of station (PCS) orders. According to DPPPRA, the applicant did not provide any documentation to justify his claim that his original departure date was 30 Mar 95, nor did he respond to a request for such documentation. Since the AFCM certificate was signed on 22 Feb 95, with a closeout date of 4 Apr 95, it seems reasonable to believe that his departure date was 5 Apr 95 and that it was known in advance. DPPPRA does not believe the applicant's claim that his Military Personnel Flight (MPF) told him that there is no document in his files showing his official departure date from Royal Air Force (RAF) [REDACTED]. DPPPRA stated that when he processed into his new duty station, he had to have provided copies of his permanent change of station (PCS) orders to his new unit and to the Transportation Office to claim his household goods from [REDACTED]. Since the AFCM received was an "end-of-tour" award, the closeout date would be the day prior to the date he actually departed the area (England). He departed on 5 Apr 95; therefore, the closeout date of 4 Apr 95 is correct. The applicant has not provided any justification for his claim of a "mixed up" departure date or for changing the closeout date of his AFCM.

A complete copy of the DPPPRA evaluation is at Exhibit C.

The Airman Promotion Branch, AFPC/DPPPWB, reviewed this application and deferred to the recommendation of AFPC/DPPPRA. DPPPWB noted that the applicant's total weighted promotion score for the 9535 cycle was 300.31 and the score required for selection in his Control Air Force Specialty Code (CAFSC) was 301.29. According to DPPPWB, if the decoration is counted in the applicant's total score, he would become a selectee for promotion pending a favorable data verification check and the recommendation of his commander. Promotion selections for this cycle were made on 28 Jul 95 and announced on 9 Aug 95.

DPPPWB indicated that the policies regarding the approval of a decoration and the credit of a decoration for promotion purposes are two separate and distinct policies. Current Air Force promotion policy dictates that before a decoration is credited for a specific promotion cycle, the closeout date of the decoration must be on or before the promotion eligibility cutoff date (PECD), and the date of the DECOR-6, must be before the date of selections for the cycle in question. Each promotion cycle has an established PECD which is used to determine what Air Force Specialty Code (AFSC) or Chief Enlisted Manager (CEM) Code the member will be considered as well as which performance reports and decorations will be used in the promotion consideration. The PECD for the cycle in question was 31 Mar 95. In addition, a

decoration that a member claims was lost, downgraded, etc., must be fully documented and verified that it was placed into official channels prior to the selection date.

According to the DPPPWB, the AFCM did not meet the criteria for promotion credit during the 95E5 cycle, as evidenced by the special order awarding the decoration, because the closeout date was 4 Apr 95, which was after PECD of 31 Mar 95.

A complete copy of the DPPPWB evaluation, with attachments, is at Exhibit D.

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**APPLICANT'S REVIEW OF AIR FORCE EVALUATION:**

Applicant believes that he has provided substantial information regarding his request, particularly the attached letter, dated 18 Dec 95. This was his first time testing for staff sergeant, and he missed it by less than a point. He is not trying to get around the system. However, he feels he has a legitimate complaint and should not be punished or penalized for mistakes over which he had no control.

Applicant's complete response is at Exhibit F.

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**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. We took notice of the applicant's complete submission in judging the merits of the case, including the statement from the applicant's first sergeant. However, we did not find it sufficient to override the rationale expressed by the respective Air Force offices of primary responsibility. Specifically, the applicant did not provide copies of those documents cited by the Air Force as necessary to establish that a change to the closeout date of the award is appropriate. Therefore, in the absence of evidence which shows to our satisfaction that the closeout date of the AFCM was erroneous, we find no compelling basis to recommend granting the relief sought in this application.
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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.

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The following members of the Board considered this application in Executive Session on 13 March 1997, under the provisions of AFI 36-2603:

Mr. David C. Van Gasbeck, Panel Chairman  
Mr. Joseph G. Diamond, Member  
Mr. Gary Appleton, Member

The following documentary evidence was considered:

- Exhibit A. DD Form 149, dated 16 Aug 95, w/atchs.
- Exhibit B. Applicant's Master Personnel Records.
- Exhibit C. Letter, AFPC/DPPRA, dated 28 Dec 95.
- Exhibit D. Letter, AFPC/DPPPWB, dated 22 Jan 96, w/atchs.
- Exhibit E. Letter, SAF/MIBR, dated 5 Feb 96.
- Exhibit F. Letter, applicant, dated 11 Feb 96, w/atchs.

  
DAVID C. VAN GASBECK  
Panel Chairman