

Docket No. 5123-22 Ref: Signature Date

From:Chairman, Board for Correction of Naval RecordsTo:Secretary of the Navy

Subj: REVIEW OF NAVAL RECORD ICO USMC

- Ref: (a) Title 10 U.S.C. § 1552 (b) MCO 7220.52F, 27 Sep 16 (c) MARADMIN 518/18, 17 Sep 18
- Encl: (1) DD Form 149 w/attachments
  (2) Advisory Opinion by HQMC, 2 Aug 22
  (3) Subject's naval record

1. Pursuant to the provisions of reference (a), Subject, hereinafter referred to as Petitioner, filed enclosure (1) with the Board for Correction of Naval Records (Board), requesting that his naval record be corrected to show Petitioner was eligible for and received the Foreign Language Proficiency Bonus (FLPB) from 1 December 2018 to 1 December 2019 for his Serbo/Croatian proficiency.

2. The Board, consisting of **Constant**, **Constant**, and **Constant** reviewed Petitioner's allegations of error and injustice on 17 August 2022 and, pursuant to its regulations, determined that the corrective action indicated below should be taken on the available evidence of record. Documentary material considered by the Board consisted of the enclosures, relevant portions of Petitioner's naval record, and applicable statutes, regulations, and policies, to include references (b)<sup>1</sup> and (c)<sup>2</sup>.

The minimum qualifying proficiency level for FLPB on all Defense Language Proficiency Test (DLPT) subtests (L/R/S) is ILR level 2. FLPB will be paid on a monthly basis and are in addition to any other pay or allowances.

FLPB starts or continues automatically on the DLPT certification date for those active duty and reserve Marines who meet eligibility criteria listed in paragraphs 4a(2)(a) and 4b(1 through 6) and whose DLPT remains current by annual recertification in accordance with the provisions of this Order.

A Marine must enter into a written agreement with the Marine Corps in order to qualify for payment of a proficiency bonus. The written agreement shall specify the amount of the proficiency bonus, the period for which the bonus will be paid, and the initial certification or recertification necessary for payment of the proficiency bonus.

<sup>2</sup> Reference (c), "Prevalent in the Force" Language Requirements. Each FY, select languages are designated as "Prevalent in the Force," indicating that adequate capacity exists. Per DODI 1340.27 and MCO 7220.52F to be eligible for a "Prevalent in the Force" language, the Marine must: 1) hold one of the Primary MOS (PMOS), and/or Free MOS (FMOS) listed by language, or serve in an organization or program (e.g., the Marine Corps Intelligence Foreign Language Program, International Affairs Program, or MARFORSOC LREC Program), that requires proficiency in a "Prevalent in the Force" language and 2) maintain current DLPT scores at the minimum ILR proficiency levels in the language required by that MOS or billet, in accordance with NAVMC 1200.1C and MCO 1520.11F. All payments for these languages will be made via FLPB Payment Schedule "1" contained in MCO 7220.52F. Note: Serbo-Croatian was not listed as a "Prevalent in the Force" language.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Reference (b), the FLPB is intended to provide bonuses to Marines with demonstrated foreign language skills that meet criteria established by this Order. In accordance with 37 USC 353 and DoD Instruction 1340.27, FLPB is intended for those officers and enlisted personnel who have demonstrated a capability in a validated foreign language. FLPB is an annual bonus paid in 12 monthly installments to Marines who maintain foreign language proficiency needed to accomplish Marine Corps missions.

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3. The Board, having reviewed all the facts of record pertaining to Petitioner's allegations of error and injustice, finds as follows:

a. On 14 July 2014 additional military occupational specialties (ADMOS) 8240 was assigned.

b. On 21 November 2018, Petitioner scored a 2+ (Reading) and 3 (Listening) on the DLPT5B with an expiration date of 1 December 2019.

c. On 15 April 2019 ADMO 8247 was assigned.

## CONCLUSION

Upon review and consideration of all the evidence of record, and especially in light of the contents of enclosure (2)<sup>3</sup>, the Board finds the existence of an injustice warranting the following partial corrective action. The Board concluded that Petitioner was awarded the ADMOS 8247 on 15 April 2019, making him eligible to receive the FLPB; however, Serbo-Croatian FLPB for Europe foreign area officers assigned the 8247 ADMOS was erroneously omitted from MARADMIN 518/18. As a result, Petitioner was not paid for his language skills. Petitioner is entitled to the FLPB from the date he was awarded ADMOS 8247 until 1 December 2019, the date of his test expiration.

## RECOMMENDATION

That Petitioner's naval record be corrected, where appropriate, to show that:

Petitioner entered in to a written agreement with the Marine Corps in order to qualify for payment of a proficiency bonus for the period of 15 April 2019 to 1 December 2019. The request was received by cognizant authority and approved for ADMOS of 8247.

Note: HQMC will determine the amount of the proficiency bonus. FLPB will be awarded based on current DLPT proficiency levels in accordance with the two payment schedule levels. Utilizing the applicable FLPB Schedule award level matrix, monthly pay amounts are computed by correlating combined DLPT proficiency scores for the highest two DLPT or OPI subtests taken in the language (L/R/S) with the appropriate monthly pay category rate (e.g., 3/2/1+ would be paid at the 3/2 rate). Finally, Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) will complete an audit of Petitioner's records to determine if Petitioner is due any back pay.

That part of the Petitioner's request for corrective action that exceeds the foregoing be denied.

A copy of this Report of Proceedings will be filed in Petitioner's naval record.

4. It is certified that a quorum was present at the Board's review and deliberations, and that the foregoing is a true and complete record of the Board's proceedings in the above-entitled matter.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Enclosure (2), the office having cognizance over the subject matter addressed in Petitioner's application has commented to the effect that the request has merit and warrants favorable action. Petitioner scored a 3/2+ on the Serbo-Croatian DLPT on 21 November 2018, which expired 1 December 2019 (seq 11 and 12). Per MCO 7220.52F, Petitioner should have received FLPB for Serbo-Croatian at the schedule 1 rate. Serbo-Croatian FLPB for Europe foreign area officers assigned the 8247 ADMOS was erroneously omitted from MARADMIN 518/18 As a result, Petitioner was not paid for his language skills.

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5. Pursuant to the delegation of authority set out in Section 6(e) of the revised Procedures of the Board for Correction of Naval Records (32 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 723.6(e)), and having assured compliance with its provisions, it is hereby announced that the foregoing corrective action, taken under the authority of the reference, has been approved by the Board on behalf of the Secretary of the Navy.

