

**UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS**

**ADDENDUM TO RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

**DOCKET NUMBER:** BC-2014-01886-5

**COUNSEL:**

**HEARING REQUESTED:**

**APPLICANT'S REQUEST**

The Board reconsider his request to be awarded the Purple Heart (PH).

**RESUME OF THE CASE**

The applicant is a former Air National Guard staff sergeant (E-5).

On 31 Mar 14, the applicant requested the Board award him the PH for injuries sustained while supporting Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. He contended they experienced a rocket attack during which he was injured while trying to egress from the top bunk. His leg was caught in the bedframe and caused him to fall. He tried to catch himself, but his entire right side, including his wrist, elbow, shoulder, knee and head, hit the ground. He was unconscious for a period of time. There was no physician available as the medical personnel were on the flight line. He was later treated for his shoulder injury.

On 16 Sep 14, the United States Air Forces Central Command (USAFCENT), the final award authority or recommending official for decorations based solely upon service, performance, or achievement in direct support of USAFCENT missions, disapproved the applicant's request noting the applicant did not meet the criteria for the PH.

On 28 Jan 15, the Board considered and denied the applicant's request to be awarded the PH, noting that he failed to exhaust his administrative remedy by first forwarding his request to USAFCENT for reconsideration.

On 1 Apr 15, the applicant requested the Board reconsider his request. He was informed the documentation provided in support of his request did not meet the criteria for reconsideration and that reconsideration is only provided when newly discovered relevant evidence is presented.

On 28 Nov 15, the applicant again requested reconsideration contending the Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) he sustained during combat in a deployed location meets the criteria for the award of the PH. On 27 Jul 17, the Board denied the applicant's request finding the evidence submitted in support of his request for reconsideration new, but not relevant. The applicant was informed the

[REDACTED]

Board would only consider newly discovered relevant evidence not available when the application was originally submitted.

On 24 Dec 19, the applicant requested reconsideration of his request for the award of the PH again contending that he sustained TBI with loss of consciousness during combat. On 17 Jun 20, the Board denied the applicant's request finding the evidence submitted in support of his request for reconsideration did not meet the PH criteria. The applicant was informed the Board would only consider newly discovered relevant evidence not available when the application was originally submitted.

On 21 Nov 22, the applicant requested the Board reconsider his request. He was informed the documentation provided in support of his request did not meet the criteria for reconsideration and that reconsideration is only provided when newly discovered relevant evidence is presented.

For an accounting of the applicant's original request and the rationale of the earlier decisions, see the AFBCMR Letter and Record of Proceedings at Exhibit O.

On 23 Jan 24, the applicant requested reconsideration of his request for the award of the PH. He again contends he has met the requirements set forth in Executive Order [REDACTED] Work-Pro... In support of his reconsideration request, the applicant submitted the following new evidence: 1, Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Documents (Unredacted).

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit P.

#### **APPLICABLE AUTHORITY/GUIDANCE**

The PH is awarded to members of the United States Armed Forces who have been wounded, killed, or who have died or may hereafter die from wounds received in action against an enemy or opposing armed force, an international terrorist attack or during military operations while serving as part of a peacekeeping force. A wound for which the award is made must have required treatment of the wound and shall be documented in the members medical and/or health record. Award of the PH may be made for wounds treated by a medical professional other than a medical officer, provided a medical officer includes a statement in the member's medical report that the extent of the wounds was such that they would have required medical treatment by a medical officer if one had been available to treat them.

#### **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 remains unconvinced the evidence presented demonstrates an error or injustice. Therefore, the Board recommends against correcting the applicant's records.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

[REDACTED]

The Board recommends informing the applicant the evidence did not demonstrate material error or injustice, and the Board will reconsider the application only upon receipt of relevant evidence not already presented.

### **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-2014-01886-5 in Executive Session on 24 Sep 24:

[REDACTED], Panel Chair  
[REDACTED], Panel Member  
[REDACTED], Panel Member

All members voted against correcting the record. The panel considered the following:

Exhibit O: Record of Proceedings, w/ Exhibits A - N, dated 13 Dec 20.  
Exhibit P: Application, DD Form 149, w/atchs, dated 21 Nov 22.

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.

4/1/2025

X [REDACTED]

Board Operations Manager, AFBCMR

Signed by: [REDACTED]