



Work-Product

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

---

### ADDENDUM TO RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2016-00759-3

Work-Product

COUNSEL: NONE

(AKA)

Work-Product

HEARING REQUESTED: NO

---

### APPLICANT'S REQUEST

The Board reconsider his request to change the name on his DD Form 214, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*, to reflect his current legal name.

### RESUME OF THE CASE

The applicant is an honorably discharged Air Force staff sergeant (E-5).

On 18 Apr 17, the Board considered and denied the applicant's request to change his last name on his DD Form 214 finding he provided insufficient evidence of an error or injustice. The Board noted the applicant enlisted, served, and was discharged using his former last name and governing directives prevented changing the applicant's last name after the effective date of his DD Form 214.

On 6 May 22, the applicant submitted a request for reconsideration and on 15 Aug 22, the Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records (AFBCMR) staff closed the applicant's request as non-viable for multiple errors with his application.

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

On 18 Jan 23, the applicant requested reconsideration of his request to change the last name on his DD Form 214 to his current legal name. The applicant again contends he wants to apply for benefits with the Department of Veterans Affairs without any issues regarding his last name. He joined the Air Force in 1977 under the name RAM. In 1988, he met his father for the first time and in 1990 his father adopted him, and his name was legally changed to RAS. He would like his service with the Air Force to reflect his true genealogical name to honor his late father who was a Navy veteran. In support of his reconsideration request, the applicant submitted the following new evidence: (1) Birth Certificate, dated 30 Nov 59; (2) Adoption Judgment; (3) Passport; (4) Driver License; (5) Certified Birth Certificate, dated 12 Oct 21; (6) Request Pertaining to Military Records; and (7) Contractor Identification Card.

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit H.

### APPLICABLE AUTHORITY/GUIDANCE

AFBCMR Docket Number BC-2016-00759-3

Work-Product

Work-Product

Air Force policy does not authorize the correction of records of former airmen to show name changes occurring after discharge (AFI 36-2608, *Military Personnel Records System*, Table A7.3 [Name Changes]). In particular, if the name appearing on the DD Form 214 was correct at the time it was created, the AFI would not allow a correction, even to reflect a subsequent, legal name change. The past practice of the Board has been to follow the AFI in all cases except those where the applicant seeks to revert to either a maiden name or the name under which he or she entered service, or the Board finds a particular injustice that warrants an exception to policy, such as noted below in the SAF/MR memorandum.

SAF/MR memorandum, *Guidance to the Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records*, dated 9 Mar 15, states that while the Board generally has the authority to correct an applicant's records to reflect a legal change to the applicant's name, it should exercise discretion in doing so. The DD Form 214 is primarily created for the benefit of the veteran to establish entitlements to various government programs, or in seeking employment with organizations that grant veteran's preferences. A DD Form 214 may constitute an injustice when the veteran asserts that presenting a DD Form 214 that lists the old name effectively requires a needlessly intrusive explanation of personal history.

A complete copy of the SAF/MR memorandums can be found at Exhibit I.

#### **APPLICANT'S REVIEW OF APPLICABLE AUTHORITY/GUIDANCE**

The Board sent a copy of the SAF/MR memorandum to the applicant on 10 Jul 23 for comment (Exhibit J) but has received no response.

#### **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 that the evidence presented demonstrates an error or injustice. The Board took note of the applicant's new evidence; however, it is not sufficient to overturn the previous Board's decision. The Board finds the applicant has not established that presenting their DD Form 214 with the previous legal name effectively requires a needlessly intrusive explanation of personal history. Therefore, the Board recommends against correcting the applicant's records.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

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-2016-00759-3 in Executive Session on: 29 Feb 24

*Work-Product*

*Work-Product*, Panel Chair

*Work-Product*, Panel Member

*Work-Product*, Panel Member

All members voted to correct the record. The panel considered the following:

Exhibit F: Record of Proceedings, w/ Exhibits A-E, dated 18 Apr 17.

Exhibit G: SAF/MRBC Non-Viable Letter to Applicant, dated 15 Aug 22

Exhibit H: Application, DD Form 149, w/atch, dated 18 Jan 23

Exhibit I: SAF/MR Name Change Memorandums, 9 Mar 15 and 25 Jul 22

Exhibit J: Notification of Memorandums, SAF/MRBC to Applicant, dated 10 Jul 23.

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.

8/14/2025

X

*Work-Product*

Board Operations Manager, AFBCMR

Signed by: USAF

**AFBCMR Docket Number BC-2016-00759-3**

*Work-Product*