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UNITED STATES AIR FORCE BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2020-00268

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COUNSEL: NONE

HEARING REQUESTED: NO

APPLICANT'S REQUEST

Her DD Form 214, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*, dated 18 Nov 01, be corrected to reflect the following achievement and awards:

- a. Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (Saudi Arabia).
- b. Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal (Operation NOBLE EAGLE).
- c. Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon.
- d. Squadron Fit Eagle Winner. **(Not authorized on DD Form 214)**
- e. Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (Kuwait). **(Administratively corrected)**
- f. Global War on Terrorism Service Medal. **(Administratively corrected)**
- g. Humanitarian Service Medal. **(Administratively corrected)**
- h. Services Apprentice Course. **(Administratively corrected)**
- i. Phoenix Readiness Service Course. **(Administratively corrected)**

APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS

Her DD Form 214 is missing multiple awards and does not reflect all her accomplishments. She earned the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (Saudi Arabia) for service supporting Operation SOUTHERN WATCH. In addition, she earned the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal (Operation NOBLE EAGLE) while assigned to McGuire Air Force Base working 12 hour shifts to help feed search and rescue teams following the attacks on 11 Sep. She also earned the Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon.

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit A.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The applicant is a former Air Force senior airman (E-4).

On 18 Nov 01, according to DD Form 214, the applicant was honorably discharged and credited with four years of active service. She was not credited with Foreign Service. Item 13, *Decorations, Medals, Badges, Citations and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized*, reflects: Air Force Training Ribbon; Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with four Oak Leaf Clusters; and the Air Force Good Conduct Medal. Item 14, *Military Education (Course Title, number weeks, and month and year completed)*, reflects: Basic Military Training, Dec 97.

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Controlled by: SAF/MRB

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Limited Dissemination Control: N/A

POC: SAF.MRBC.Workflow@us.af.mil

According to a certificate provided by the applicant, she was awarded the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for the period 29 May 01 to 30 Aug 01, for outstanding service in support of Operation SOUTHERN WATCH (Kuwait).

On 4 Jun 21, the Air Force Personnel Center (AFPC) Recognition Team informed the applicant they were able to verify award of the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal. They also advised her the Fit Eagle is not a Department of Defense (DoD) or Air Force approved award. In addition, they informed the applicant if they did not receive additional documents pertaining to her request for the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal with one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, and Humanitarian Service Medal within 30 days, her case would be referred to the Board.

On 11 Nov 21, AFPC/DP1SSP (Awards and Decorations) issued Form 6, *Action Order*, directing the applicant's DD Form 214, dated 18 Nov 01, be administratively corrected to add the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and Humanitarian Service Medal.

On 7 Apr 22, AFPC/DP2WR (Readiness Training) informed the applicant they verified Foreign Service in Kuwait from 29 May 01 to 30 Aug 01 for a total of 93 days. Additionally, they informed her that CED [Contingency, Exercise and Deployment] orders or travel vouchers were required to validate any other deployments.

On 1 Nov 22, AFPC/DP1SSP issued Form 6 directing the applicant's DD Form 214, dated 18 Nov 01, be corrected to add the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (Kuwait).

On 24 Mar 23, AFPC/DP2WLD (Training) issued a Form 6 directing the applicant's DD Form 214, dated 18 Nov 01, Section 14 be corrected to add: O9J Services Apprentice Course, Jan 98; 98L Phoenix Readiness Service Course, Mar 01.

For more information, see the excerpt of the applicant's record at Exhibit B and the advisory at Exhibit C.

APPLICABLE AUTHORITY/GUIDANCE

Air Force Manual (AFMAN) 36-2806, *Awards and Memorialization Program*, paragraph A14.4. states the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal is awarded to members of the U.S. Armed Forces who, after 1 Jul 58, participated in U.S. military operations, U.S. operations in direct support of the United Nations, or U.S. operations of assistance for friendly foreign nations. The Joint Chiefs of Staff designates operations that qualify for the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, specifies the degree of participation required, and defines the area of operations. Service members must be bona fide members of a unit participating in or be engaged in the direct support of the operation for 30 consecutive days in the area of operations (or for the full period when an operation is less than 30 days duration), or for 60 nonconsecutive days.

Paragraph A14.11, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal was established by Executive Order 13289, 12 Mar 03, to recognize the significant contributions of the members of the Armed Forces in support of designated War on Terrorism operations. The medal is awarded to members who participated in the War on Terrorism operations outside of the designated areas of eligibility for the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, and Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal on or after 11 Sep 01 to a future date to be determined. The member must have served on active duty, on or after 11 Sep 01,

for a minimum of 30 consecutive or 60 nonconsecutive days, not including initial accession training, or regardless of time served while on active duty, on or after 11 Sep 01. The Air Force Chief of Staff authorized award of the medal to members who directly or indirectly supported the designated operations, and meet all other eligibility criteria. Members supporting War on Terrorism operations in a non-deployed status, whether stationed at home or overseas are eligible for the medal.

Paragraph A14.33, the Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon was established by the Secretary of the Air Force on 28 Aug 62 and made effective on 1 Jan 63. The ribbon is awarded to Regular Air Force, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve members, who, after 1 Jan 63, qualify as "Expert" with either the M-16 rifle (to include the M-4 and GAU-5) or an issued handgun on the Air Force qualification course, an appropriate orientation course prescribed in other Air Force Instructions, other Military Services' qualification course, or who satisfactorily complete the Combat Rifle Program. Members who, after 22 Jun 72, qualify as "Expert" with both the M-16 rifle (or M-4 or GAU-5) and an issued handgun, wear a bronze service star on the ribbon. The AF Form 522, *Ground Weapons Training Data and USAF Firearms Qualification*, or a letter to the manpower and personnel flight for update in the member's personnel records.

Title 10, United States Code, Section 1168: Discharge or release from active duty: limitation; DoDI 1336.01, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214/5 Series)*; AFI 36-3202, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214/5 Series)*; Total Force Personnel Services Delivery Guide (PSDG), *DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*. The DD Form 214 is prepared in accordance with the aforementioned publications and is used to record qualifying active duty service. The PSDG, *Specific Procedures*, outlines specific block by block contents of the DD Form 214. There is no provision allowing individual or unit fitness awards.

AIR FORCE EVALUATION

AFPC/DP3SP (Recognition Program) recommends denying award of the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (Saudi Arabia), the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal for Operation NOBLE EAGLE, and the Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon. In accordance with AFMAN 36-2806, paragraph A14.5, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal is awarded to members of the U.S. Armed Forces who, after 1 Jul 58, participated in U.S. operations in direct support of the United Nations, or U.S. operations of assistance for friendly foreign nations. The applicant's AF Form 910, *Enlisted Performance Report*, covering the period 19 Jul 19 through 18 Jul 00 indicates duty at Saudi Arabia; however, there are no inclusive dates listed.

In addition, paragraph A14.10 states the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal was established by Executive Order 13289, dated 12 Mar 03, to recognize members of the U.S. Armed Forces who deployed abroad for service in the War on Terrorism operations on or after 11 Sep 01 to a date to be determined. The Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal is the award applicable to Operation NOBLE EAGLE.

After a thorough review of the applicant's official military personnel record and documentation provided by the applicant to possibly provide administrative relief, they were unable to verify the applicant met the eligibility criteria for award of the Armed Force Expeditionary Medal (Saudi Arabia) and the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal (Operation NOBLE EAGLE).

The complete advisory opinion is at Exhibit C.

APPLICANT'S REVIEW OF AIR FORCE EVALUATION

The Board sent a copy of the advisory opinion to the applicant on 14 Dec 22 for comment (Exhibit D), and the applicant replied on 23 Feb 23. In her response, she states that she did receive the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for her service at Prince Sultan AB, Saudi Arabia and needs her DD Form 214 corrected to reflect it. Additionally, she questions why she does not qualify for the award for Operation NOBLE EAGLE, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, and Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon. The applicant's complete response is at Exhibit E.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

1. The application was not timely filed. The Board also notes the applicant did not file the application within three years of discovering the alleged error or injustice, as required by Title 10 United States Code, Section 1552 and Department of the Air Force Instruction (DAFI) 36-2603, *Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records (AFBCMR)*. While the applicant asserts a date of discovery within the three-year limit, the Board does not find the assertion supported by a preponderance of the evidence.

2. The applicant exhausted all available non-judicial relief before applying to the Board.

3. After reviewing all Exhibits, the Board concludes the applicant is not the victim of an error or injustice. The Board concurs with the rationale and recommendation of AFPC/DP3SP and finds a preponderance of the evidence does not substantiate the applicant's contentions. The applicant contends she qualifies for the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for serving in Saudi Arabia in support of Operation SOUTHERN WATCH. While her enlisted performance report indicates duty in Saudi Arabia, it does not contain the inclusive dates of the service to determine if the applicant served in the area of eligibility for 30 consecutive days or 60 nonconsecutive days as required. The applicant also contends she qualifies for the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal for her support of Operation NOBLE EAGLE while assigned to a stateside base. According to AFMAN 36-2806, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal was established to recognize members deployed abroad in support of War on Terrorism operations on or after 11 Sep 01. The applicant's support for Operation NOBLE EAGLE at a stateside location renders her ineligible for the award. Finally, the applicant failed to provide sufficient evidence she met criteria outlined in AFMAN 36-2806 to qualify for the Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon, and according to guidance governing the completion of the DD Form 214, an individual fitness award (Squadron Fit Eagle Winner) is not an authorized entry on the DD Form 214. Therefore, the Board recommends against correcting the applicant's records.

RECOMMENDATION

The Board recommends informing the applicant the evidence presented 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 DAFI 36-2603, paragraph 2.1, considered Docket Number BC-2020-00268 in Executive Session on 21 Sep 23:

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, Panel Chair

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Panel Member

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Panel Member

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

Exhibit A: Application, DD Form 149, w/atchs, dated 18 Nov 19.

Exhibit B: Documentary evidence, including relevant excerpts from official records.

Exhibit C: Advisory Opinion, AFPC/DP3SP, dated 7 Dec 22.

Exhibit D: Notification of Advisory, SAF/MRBC to Applicant, dated 14 Dec 22.

Exhibit E: Applicant's Response, dated 23 Feb 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.

7/16/2025

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Board Operations Manager, AFBCMR

Signed by: USAF

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