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UNITED STATES AIR FORCE BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2020-03021

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COUNSEL: NONE

HEARING REQUESTED: NO

APPLICANT'S REQUEST

Correct his official military personnel records to reflect award of the:

1. Nuclear Deterrence Operations Service Medal (NDOSM).
2. Korea Defense Service Medal (KDSM). (**pending administrative correction**)

APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS

He was stationed at Offutt, Air Force Base (AFB) for a total of eight years (1987-1993 and 1994-1996) working in Satellite Communications providing EAM communications.

He was stationed at Camp Red Cloud in South Korea for one year (1993-1994) supporting close air support missions.

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit A.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The applicant is a retired [State] Air National Guard master sergeant (E-7).

According to AF Form 910, *TSgt, SSgt, Sgt Performance Report*, for the period 1 Apr 88 – 31 Mar 89, provided by the applicant, he was assigned to the 1853d Communications Maintenance Squadron, Offutt, AFB, Nebraska (NE) as a Space Communications Systems Equipment Maintenance Specialist.

According to AF Form 910, *TSgt, SSgt, Sgt Performance Report*, for the period 1 Apr 89 – 31 Mar 90, provided by the applicant, he was assigned to the 1853d Communications Maintenance Squadron, Offutt, AFB, NE as a Space Communications Systems Equipment Maintenance Specialist.

According to AF Form 910, *Enlisted Performance Report*, for the period 3 Jul 93 – 2 Jul 94, provided by the applicant, he was assigned to the 604th Air Support Operations Center Squadron, Camp Red Cloud, Republic of Korea.

On 17 Jan 96, the applicant was furnished an honorable discharge from the Air Force, and credited with 11 years, 11 months, 4 days active service, with 2 years, 1 month, 4 days foreign service.

AFBCMR Docket Number BC-2020-03021

Work-Product

Controlled by: SAF/MRB

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Limited Dissemination Control: N/A

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

On 10 Feb 04, according to NGB Form 22, *Report of Separation and Record of Service*, provided by the applicant, he was discharged from the [State] Air National Guard, and credited with 20 years, 9 months, and 1 day total service for pay.

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

AIR FORCE EVALUATION

AFPC/DP3SP recommends denying the applicant's request for the NDOSM. After a thorough review of the applicant's official military personnel record and provided documentation, award of the KDSM was verified and will be administratively corrected. Award of the NDOSM could not be verified.

In accordance with Air Force Manual (AFMAN) 36-2806, *Awards and Memorialization Program*, 10 Jun 19:

A14.24. *Nuclear Deterrence Operations Service Medal*. The medal was established by SECAF on 27 May 2014 to recognize Airmen who directly supported nuclear deterrence operations on or after 27 December 1991.

A14.24.1. *Eligibility*.

A14.24.1.1. The Nuclear Deterrence Operations Service Medal (basic) may be awarded to Airmen who, while assigned, attached, deployed or mobilized to a unit (wing, center or below, and nuclear-certified controllers above wing level), provided support to the Nuclear Enterprise for 120 consecutive or 179 nonconsecutive days, and:

A14.24.1.1.1. The unit was subject to a Nuclear Inspection, or

A14.24.1.1.2. Performed duties in nuclear operations to include nuclear weapon storage facilities, nuclear command, control, and communication, cyber surety, security, safety, transportation, maintenance, facility management and maintenance, explosive ordnance disposal, aircrew certified for support to nuclear operations, weapons loaders, warning and attack assessment, personnel reliability program management, or research, development and acquisition of nuclear systems.

Based on the documentation presented and review of the official record, we could not verify the applicant was assigned, attached, deployed, or mobilized to a unit that provided support to the Nuclear Enterprise for 120 consecutive or 179 nonconsecutive days, rendering him ineligible for award of the NDOSM.

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 22 Dec 22 for comment (Exhibit D) but has received no response.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

1. The application was not timely filed. The applicant did not file the application within three years of discovering the alleged error or injustice, as required by Section 1552 of Title 10, United States Code, and Department of the Air Force Instruction 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 and does not find it in the interest of justice to waive the three-year filing requirement.

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's eligibility for award of the NDOSM, in accordance with AFMAN 36-2806, could not be verified. Therefore, except for the aforementioned administrative correction, the Board recommends against correcting the applicant's records.

RECOMMENDATION

The Board recommends informing the applicant the application was not timely filed; it would not be in the interest of justice to excuse the delay; 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-2020-03021 in Executive Session on 12 Sep 23:

Work-Product, Panel Chair
Work-Product, Panel Member
Work-Product, Panel Member

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

Exhibit A: Application, DD Form 149, w/atchs, dated 5 Aug 20.

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

Exhibit C: Advisory Opinion, AFPC/DP3SP, dated 15 Dec 22.

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

6/8/2025

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AFBCMR Docket Number BC-2020-03021

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