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UNITED STATES AIR FORCE BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2020-03192

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COUNSEL: NONE

HEARING REQUESTED: NO

APPLICANT'S REQUEST

Correct his DD Form 214, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*, to reflect award of the Meritorious Service Medal (MSM).

APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS

The Meritorious Service Medal was not included. He was making arrangements for his final resting place and noticed it was missing from his DD Form 214.

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit A.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The applicant is a retired Air Force technical sergeant (E-6).

On 31 Jul 94, the applicant was furnished an honorable discharge, with Narrative Reason for Separation: Voluntary Retirement: Maximum Service or Time in Grade, and credited with 20 years, 28 days active service.

On 7 Oct 21, HQ AFPC Recognition Team sent a letter to the applicant requesting additional documentation in support of his request for award of the MSM.

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 application. Based on the documentation presented and review of the official record, there is no error/injustice as the applicant does not meet the established criteria for award of the MSM.

The applicant did not provide the required documentation such as a Special Order and signed certificate or citation to verify award of the MSM. Further, no decoration package was submitted for consideration of award of the MSM.

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Controlled by: SAF/MRB

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Limited Dissemination Control: N/A

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

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

A2.11. *Meritorious Service Medal*. The medal was authorized by EO11448, 16 January 1969. The medal is awarded to any Service member, or to any member of the armed forces of a friendly foreign nation, who has distinguished himself or herself by outstanding meritorious achievement or service.

A2.11.1. *Eligibility*.

A2.11.1.1. Normally the acts or services rendered are comparable to that required for the Legion of Merit, but in a duty of lesser though considerable responsibility.

A2.11.1.2. The medal may be awarded for outstanding achievement or service while serving in a combat zone, combat zone tax exclusion areas, and areas authorized for hostile fire pay, imminent danger pay, or hazardous duty pay. However, the Bronze Star Medal is the appropriate equivalent level award to recognize meritorious achievement or service performed under combat conditions.

After a thorough review of the applicant's official military personnel record and provided documentation, award of the MSM could not be verified. In addition, correspondence was sent to the applicant on 7 Oct 21 requesting additional documentations in support of his request. As of the date of this advisory, a response has not been received from the applicant.

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 did not meet the established criteria for award of the Meritorious Service Medal in accordance with AFMAN 36-2806. Therefore, 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-2020-03192 in Executive Session on 12 Sep 23:

Work-Product, Panel Chair
Work-Product, Panel Member
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All members voted against correcting the record. The panel considered the following:

- Exhibit A: Application, DD Form 149, dated 10 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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Board Operations Manager, AFBCMR

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