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UNITED STATES AIR FORCE BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2021-03102

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COUNSEL: NONE

HEARING REQUESTED: NO

APPLICANT'S REQUEST

His DD Form 214, *Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge*, effective 22 July 1969, Item 24 (*Decorations, Medals, Badges, Commendations, Citations and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized*), be amended to include the following awards:

- a. Air Force Overseas Ribbon - Short Tour.
- b. Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon.
- c. Air Force Training Ribbon.
- d. Vietnam Defense Commemorative Medal.

APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS

He served from 13 December 1965 to 22 July 1969 and was in direct support of operations in Vietnam while serving in Kadena AFB from 2 July 1968 to 22 July 1969, Okinawa Japan.

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit A.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

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

On 13 December 1965, according to DD Form 4, *Enlistment/Reenlistment Document – Armed Forces of the United States*, the applicant entered the Regular Air Force.

On 22 July 1969, according to DD Form 214, the applicant was honorably discharged from active duty in the grade of sergeant. He served 3 years, 7 months and 10 days total active duty and was credited with 1 year, 5 months and 11 days of foreign service.

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. After a thorough review of the applicant's official military personnel record and provided documentation to possibly provide administrative relief, award of the Air Force Training Ribbon, Air Force Overseas Ribbon-Short Tour, Small

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Controlled by: SAF/MRB

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Limited Dissemination Control: N/A

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

Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon, and the Vietnam Defense Commemorative Medal are unable to be verified.

IAW AFMAN 36-2806, *Awards and Memorialization Program*, the Air Force Overseas Ribbon (Short and Long Tour) were established on 12 October 1980 to recognize completion of an overseas tour. Prior to 6 January 1986, the ribbon was awarded to regular Air Force, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve members credited with completion of an overseas tour on or after 1 September 1980. Regular Air Force, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve members serving on or after 6 January 1986, may reflect all Air Force overseas tours credited during their career.

IAW AFMAN 36-2806, the Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon was established by SECAF on 28 August 1962 and made effective on 1 January 1963. The ribbon is awarded to regular Air Force, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve members, who, after 1 January 1963, 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 June 1972, 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. AF Form 522, *Ground Weapons Training Data and USAF Firearms Qualification*, or a letter from the small arms marksmanship monitor is used as the source documentation for this award. Members who qualify as "Expert" provides a copy of the AF Form 522 or letter to the manpower and personnel flight for update in the member's personnel records.

IAW AFMAN 36-2806, the Air Force Training Ribbon was authorized by CSAF on 12 October 1980. The ribbon is awarded to Air Force members on completion of initial accession training after 14 August 1974. In December 1986, the criteria expanded and authorized the ribbon to anyone who was on active duty in December 1986, regardless of when they completed initial accession training.

IAW AFMAN 36-2806, various commercial vendors offer commemorative medals that recognize historical events, campaigns, or service, such as the D-Day Invasion, the Battle of the Bulge, overseas tours, or combat service. These medals are not issued by DoD, the Air Force, or any other Military Service. As such, and in accordance with AFI 36-2903, these medals and corresponding ribbons are not authorized for wear on official military uniforms. Commemorative Medals are primarily a celebratory display medal rather than an official award or decoration of the United States Air Force or Department of Defense.

Commemorative medals are unable to be verified and are not updated on a DD Form 214, as they are not official United States Air Force or Department of Defense awards or decorations. As a courtesy, AFPC/DP3SP has provided commercial sources listed below should the applicant wish to purchase these commemorative medals. Note: this list does not constitute Air Force sanction of any or all of them.

Medals of America
114 Southchase Blvd
Fountain Inn, SC 29644
1-800-308-0849
www.usmedals.com

Military Honors
PO Box 33307
San Antonio, TX 78265
210-599-2248 / Fax: 210-599-2253
www.militaryhonors.net

Vets Supply Line
10550 County Road 8 Ste 218
Maple Grove, MN 55369
1-800-864-5062
www.militaryvetspx.com

The applicant's active duty service dates were from 13 December 1965 to 22 July 1969.

The applicant's time of active duty service being prior to the authorized award period - renders him ineligible for award of the Air Force Overseas Ribbon-Short Tour and Air Force Training Ribbon. The Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon is unable to be verified, as there is no documentation such as the AF Form 522, *USAF Ground Weapons Training Data*, AF Form 7, *Airman Military Record*, or Special Order to verify he qualified as expert with either, the M-16 or issued handgun. To grant relief would be contrary to the criteria established by AFMAN 36-2806.

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 23 May 2023 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.
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. 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-2021-03102 in Executive Session on 5 December 2023:

Work-Product, Panel Chair
 Work-Product, Panel Member
 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, w/atchs, dated 18 August 2021.
- Exhibit B: Documentary evidence, including relevant excerpts from official records.
- Exhibit C: Advisory Opinion, AFPC/DP3SP, dated 8 February 2023.
- Exhibit D: Notification of Advisory, SAF/MRBC to Applicant, dated 23 May 2023.

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.

7/2/2025

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Board Operations Manager, AFBCMR

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