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UNITED STATES AIR FORCE BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2023-01439

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COUNSEL: NONE

HEARING REQUESTED: NO

APPLICANT'S REQUEST

A 10 percent increase in retired pay due to extraordinary heroism for his Bronze Star Medal with Valor (BSM w/V).

APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS

He was not considered for the retired pay increase when he was awarded the BSM w/V. Section 8.11.3 of AFI 36-3203 provides that if a member believes they were not provided consideration for the additional retired pay, they may request such consideration through the Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records (AFBCMR).

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit A.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The applicant is a currently serving Air Force Reserve senior master sergeant (E-8).

According to [Work-Product], dated 18 November 2002, the applicant was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for heroic achievements while engaged in ground operations against an opposing armed forces during 7 November 2001.

According to the Retrieval Applications Web (RAW), the applicant's date of separation reflects 31 December 2023. His Expiration Term of Service (ETS) reflects 26 December 2024 and his ANG/AFR Mandatory Separation Date reflects 1 September 2032.

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

AIR FORCE EVALUATION

SAF/MRBP recommends denying the application. According to paragraph 8.11.2. of AFI 36-3203, *Service Retirements*, award of the Medal of Honor and Air Force Cross automatically entitled an enlisted member to an additional ten percent in retired pay. However, the Secretary of the Air Force (SecAF) has the authority to evaluate the heroic actions of enlisted members who have earned the Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross (non-combat), and the Airman's Medal to determine if extraordinary heroism was involved, which would entitle the recipient to the increase in retired pay. Because AFI 36-3203 limits the possibility of earning the ten percent entitlement

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Controlled by: SAF/MRB

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Limited Dissemination Control: N/A

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

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to the Medal of Honor, Air Force Cross, Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross (non-combat), and the Airman's Medal, recipients of the BSM w/V are not eligible for the additional ten percent retired pay. An excerpt from AFI 36-3203 of all the pertinent guidance in its proper context follows: Retired Pay Increase Due to Extraordinary Heroism (Enlisted Only). AC enlisted members who had deeds of extraordinary heroism may be entitled to receive 10 percent additional retired pay if a member retires under 10 USC § 9314 (10 USC § 9361). For ARC enlisted members, payments for acts or deeds begin 1 October 2002, (10 USC § 12739, Computation of Retired Pay 10 USC § 12741, Retirement for Service in an Active Status Performed in the Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve After Eligibility for Regular Retirement) although the act or deed may have occurred prior to this date. Since regulations require extraordinary heroism as the criterion for award of the Medal of Honor, Air Force Cross, or equivalent Army or Navy decorations, these awards provide automatic entitlement to the additional 10 percent retirement pay (not to exceed 75 of the member's AD basic pay at the time of retirement) for enlisted members. If heroism is involved in the award of any other medal to an enlisted member, SecAF will determine, coincident to awarding the medal, whether or not the additional 10 percent retirement pay will be authorized. (T-1). Because the law is not restrictive with regard to the types of decorations that may qualify an individual for this increase in retired pay, the SecAF has the authority to evaluate the heroic actions that have earned the Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross (noncombat), and the Airman's Medal to determine if extraordinary heroism was involved, which would entitle the recipient to the increase in retired pay. (T-1).

AFI 36-3203 authorizes the SecAF to consider the additional 10 percent for certain decorations; however, the Bronze Star is not one of them.

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 21 August 2023 for comment (Exhibit D) 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 concludes the applicant is not the victim of an error or injustice. The Board concurs with the rationale and recommendation of SAF/MRBP and finds a preponderance of the evidence does not substantiate the applicant's contentions. The Board notes that the Secretary of the Air Force has the authority to evaluate the heroic actions of enlisted members who have earned the Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross (non-combat), and the Airman's Medal to determine if extraordinary heroism was involved, which would entitle the recipient to the increase in retired pay. Because AFI 36-3203 limits the possibility of earning the ten percent entitlement to the Medal of Honor, Air Force Cross, Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross (non-combat), and the Airman's Medal, recipients of the BSM w/V are not eligible for the additional ten percent retired pay. Therefore, the Board recommends against correcting the applicant's records.

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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-2023-01439 in Executive Session on 7 November 2023:

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 2 May 2023.

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

Exhibit C: Advisory Opinion, SAF/MRBP, w/atchs, dated 16 August 2023.

Exhibit D: Notification of Advisory, SAF/MRBC to Applicant, dated 21 August 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.

8/13/2025

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Signed by:

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