



**UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS**

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2024-01541

COUNSEL: NONE

HEARING REQUESTED: YES

APPLICANT'S REQUEST

1. The name on her DD Form 214, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*, be changed to reflect her current legal name.
2. Her Air Force records (to include awards and decorations, previous performance reports/evaluations, et cetera) be changed to reflect her current legal name.
3. Her dependents' last name be changed to reflect their current legal last name in Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) (not within the Board's purview).

APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS

The applicant legally changed her name and would like the aforementioned documents changed. Her dependents' last names were also changed, and she would like them updated in DEERS.

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit A.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

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

The applicant served in the Air Force Reserve from 19 May 08 to 11 Jan 20, under the names **Attorney-Client** and **Attorney-...**

On 14 Feb 22, the applicant obtained a court order to change her name to **Attorney-...**

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

APPLICABLE AUTHORITY/GUIDANCE

Air Force policy does not authorize the correction of records of former airmen to show name changes occurring after discharge (AFI 36-2608, *Military Personnel Records System*, Table A7.3 [Name Changes]). In particular, if the name appearing on the DD Form 214 was correct at the time it was created, the AFI would not allow a correction, even to reflect a subsequent, legal name change. The past practice of the Board has been to follow the AFI in all cases except those where the applicant seeks to revert to either a maiden name or the name under which he or she entered service, or the Board finds a particular injustice that warrants an exception to policy, such as noted below in the SAF/MR memorandum.

AFBCMR Docket Number BC-2024-01541

APPLICABLE AUTHORITY/GUIDANCE

SAF/MR memorandum, *Guidance to the Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records*, dated 9 Mar 15, states that while the Board generally has the authority to correct an applicant's records to reflect a legal change to the applicant's name, it should exercise discretion in doing so. The DD Form 214 is primarily created for the benefit of the veteran to establish entitlements to various government programs, or in seeking employment with organizations that grant veteran's preferences. A DD Form 214 may constitute an injustice when the veteran asserts that presenting a DD Form 214 that lists the old name effectively requires a needlessly intrusive explanation of personal history. This type of injustice may arise in situations such as when the name change is transgender-related or associated with a divorce.

A complete copy of the SAF/MR memorandum is at Exhibit C.

APPLICANT'S REVIEW OF APPLICABLE AUTHORITY/GUIDANCE

The Board sent a copy of the SAF/MR memorandum to the applicant on 3 Jun 24, 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. As noted above, SAF/MR provided guidance regarding potential changes on the DD Form 214 to reflect a legal name change because unlike other military records, it is designed for a post-service audience and is used throughout an applicant's lifetime to provide proof of service. However, personnel military records are created for the benefit of the Department of Defense and the historical integrity of the record requires that the name not be altered if it reflected the legal name at the time the record was created, unless an extreme circumstance arises that results in an actual (not perceived) injustice. The Board did not determine this to be the case. Furthermore, the Board finds the applicant has not established that presenting her DD Form 214 with the previous legal name effectively requires a needlessly intrusive explanation of personal history. Finally, the applicant can visit the following link for information on updating her name and her dependents' last name in DEERS: https://milconnect.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect/public/faq/DEERS-Veterans_and_DEERS. Therefore, the Board recommends against correcting the applicant's records.
4. The applicant has not shown a personal appearance, with or without counsel, would materially add to the Board's understanding of the issues involved.

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.

[REDACTED]

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-2024-01541 in Executive Session on 26 Nov 24:

[REDACTED], Panel Chair
[REDACTED], Panel Member
[REDACTED], Panel Member

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

- Exhibit A: Application, DD Form 149, w/atchs, dated 11 Apr 24.
- Exhibit B: Documentary Evidence, including relevant excerpts from official records.
- Exhibit C: Memorandums, SAF/MR, dated 9 Mar 15 and 25 Jul 22.
- Exhibit D: Notification of Memorandum, SAF/MRBC to Applicant, dated 3 Jun 24.

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.

4/15/2025

X [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Board Operations Manager, AFBCMR
Signed by: USAF