



CUI//SP-MIL/SP-PRVCY

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

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

Work-Product

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2019-00984

COUNSEL: *Work-Product*

HEARING REQUESTED: NO

APPLICANT'S REQUEST

His DD Form 214, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*, dated 30 Jun 95, be corrected to reflect the following awards:

- a. Air Force Military Training Instructor Ribbon with three Oak Leaf Clusters
- b. Outstanding Airman of the Year Ribbon
- c. Air and Space Campaign Medal
- d. Kuwait Liberation Medal – Kuwait (**Administratively corrected**)
- e. Bronze Star Medal (BSM)
- f. Defense Meritorious Service Medal
- g. Joint Service Commendation Medal
- h. Joint Meritorious Unit Award (**Already annotated on DD Form 214**)

APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS

He deserves to have his records updated to accurately reflect the awards and decorations that he has earned:

a. He is authorized the Air Force Military Training Instructor Ribbon with three oak leaf clusters. As an Emergency Management Specialist (Air Force Specialty Code, AFSC, 2470) he was a training instructor responsible for training thousands of Air Force personnel during his nine-year Air Force career for any peacetime, man-made, or natural disasters as well as: Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Warfare Defense; Shelter Operations; Specialized Teams; Decontamination Teams; First Responder Courses; and various Initial Orientation Courses.

b. He should have automatically received the Outstanding Airman of the Year Ribbon as he was nominated for and awarded the 1992 Air Training Command's Disaster Preparedness Non-Commissioned Offer of the Year Award.

c. He earned the Air and Space Campaign Medal as he supported a significant Air Force Operation for more than 30 consecutive days, from Aug 90 – Sep 90, before being deployed to Operation DESERT SHIELD.

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d. He met the eligibility criteria to be awarded the Kuwait Liberation Medal – Kuwait as he was deployed for Operation DESERT SHIELD, Operation DESERT STORM, and Operation DESERT CALM, and was awarded the Kuwait Liberation Medal – Saudi Arabia.

e. He was submitted for the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service in a combat zone while assigned to the Joint Survival Control Center. His citation narrative reads "Exceptionally meritorious service while assigned as a Joint Survival Control Center Air Base Operability NCOIC for the 4409th Combat Support Group in support of Desert Storm during the most hostile period of the conflict. Staff Sergeant [Applicant's] outstanding performance, technical expertise, and unwavering commitment to mission accomplishment in a hostile environment were vital to successful combat operations in Iraq. He consistently manifested exemplary professionalism and initiative and obtained outstanding results. His rapid assessment and solution to numerous problems greatly enhanced the overall effectiveness of the JSRC. Despite many adversaries and sometimes under the harshest conditions of direct Scud Missile fire, he consistently performed his duties in a very effective and efficient manner, applying his sound judgment and extensive knowledge which contributed to the successful accomplishment of the mission. His contributions and dedication to duty reflect great credit upon himself, the Joint Service Operations Command, and the United States Air Force."

f. He was submitted for the Defense Meritorious Medal, the Joint Service Commendation, and the Joint Meritorious Unit Award and was told that there were several other decorations were submitted for his service during the Operation DESERT STORM campaign; however, he was told to be patient because of "Major Command" conflicts.

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit A.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The applicant is an honorably discharged Air Force staff sergeant (E-5).

On 30 Jun 95, according to DD Form 214, the applicant was honorably discharged and credited with 9 years and 3 months of active service. Item 13, *Decorations, Medals, Badges, Citations and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized (All periods of service)*, reflects: Air Force Achievement Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, Army Commendation Medal, Air Force Longevity Service Award with one Oak Leaf Cluster, Air Force Training Ribbon, Southwest Asia Service Medal with two Bronze Service Stars, Kuwait Liberation Medal, Air Force Overseas Short Tour Ribbon with one Oak Leaf Cluster, Army of Occupation Medal (Berlin), Air Force Overseas Service Long Tour Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal, Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon with one Bronze Service Star, Army NCO Professional Development Ribbon, NCO Professional Military Education Ribbon with one Oak Leaf Cluster, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Air Force Good Conduct Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, and the Army Service Ribbon.

On 9 May 19, the applicant was notified that he had not exhausted other administrative avenues of relief prior to requesting relief from the AFBCMR. His request was forwarded to the Air Force Personnel Center (AFPC) for review and/or corrective action and his application to the AFBCMR was closed.

On 21 Nov 22, the applicant's case processing was resumed.

On 1 Jun 23, DD Form 215, *Correction to DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*, was published, which corrected item 13 to add the Kuwait Liberation Medal-Kuwait.

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 awards of the Air Force Basis Military Training Instructor Ribbon with three Oak Leaf Clusters, Outstanding Airman of the Year Award, Air and Space Campaign Medal, Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, and the Joint Service Commendation Medal. The applicant contends that his AFSC 3E971, *Emergency Management Specialist/Disaster Preparedness Craftsman (formerly AFSC 24270)*, is specifically for training all Air Force personnel in preparation for any peacetime, man-made, or natural disasters and that all personnel entering this AFSC are required to become instructors; however, the Air Force Basic Military Training Instructor Ribbon is intended for Basic Military Training Instructors for the inclusive period of 7 Dec 98 to 3 Sep 14 and technical school instructors are not eligible for this ribbon. In accordance with Air Force Manual (AFMAN) 36-2806, *Awards and Memorialization Program*, 10 June 2019, paragraph A14.29., the Air Force Basic Military Training Instructor Ribbon was established to recognize certain military training instructors from 7 Dec 98 to 3 Sep 14. The ribbon is authorized for Basic Military Training Instructors (includes SDI 8B000 Basic Military Training and Air Force Officer Training School) for a tour of duty as a military training instructor. The period of eligibility for the ribbon is 7 Dec 98 to 3 Sep 14. Graduates of the Military Training Instructor School on or after 4 Sep 14 are recognized with an Air Force Special Duty Ribbon upon successful completion of a tour of duty as a military training instructor.

The Outstanding Airman of the Year Award is a specific award that requires nomination and selection for the Twelve Outstanding Airmen of the Year Program. It is not a general award for Airman that have won other awards. In accordance with paragraph A14.21, the Outstanding Airman of the Year Ribbon was established 21 Feb 68, to recognize certain competitors and awardees of the Twelve Outstanding Airmen of the Year Program. The ribbon is awarded to Airmen nominated by Major Commands, Field Operating Agencies, and Direct Reporting Units to compete at the Air Force-level in the Twelve Outstanding Airmen of the Year Program, and to Airmen selected as one of the Twelve Outstanding Airmen of the Year. Therefore, the award of the 1992 Air Training Command's Disaster Preparedness Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year does not meet the eligibility requirements.

In accordance with paragraph A14.23, the Air and Space Campaign Medal was established by the Secretary of the Air Force on 24 Apr 02 to recognize Air Force members who, after 24 Mar 99, participated in or directly supported a significant U.S. military operation designated by the Chief of Staff, US Air Force as qualifying for the medal. The medal will only be awarded to members who provided direct support for 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days, to an Air and Space Campaign Medal operation, from home station or other areas outside a geographic area determined by the Joint Chiefs of Staff for eligibility for a DoD campaign medal. The applicant's active duty service period, 1 Apr 86 to 30 Jun 95, predates the award authorization period and therefore he does not meet eligibility criteria for award of the Air and Space Campaign Medal.

The applicant also contends that award packages were submitted during the Operation DESERT STORM campaigns; however, he did not provide a Special Order, nor a decoration package for each award of the Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, or the Joint Service Commendation Medal. Each decoration package consists of a proposed citation, a signed recommendation from someone with firsthand knowledge of the act/achievement, preferably from

someone within the applicant's chain of command at the time of the achievement (narrative must be signed by the recommending official/recommending official must be in the applicant's chain of command and have firsthand knowledge) and eyewitness statements. According to paragraph A2.9, the Bronze Star Medal is awarded to any person who, while serving in or with the Air Force after 6 Dec 41, has distinguished himself or herself by heroism (valor), meritorious achievement or service, not involving participation in aerial flight: While engaged in an action against an enemy of the U.S.; While engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force; While serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the U.S. is not a belligerent party. Furthermore, in accordance with Department of Defense Manual (DoDM) 1348.33 Vol 4, *Manual of Military Decorations and Awards: DoD Joint Decorations and Awards*, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, in accordance with Executive Order 12019, may be awarded by the Secretary of Defense to any member of the Armed Forces of the United States, or to any member of the armed forces of a friendly foreign nation, who has rendered outstanding non-combat meritorious achievement or service while assigned to the OSD, the Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, a specified or unified command, a Defense Agency, or other such JDA as may be designated by the Secretary of Defense. The Defense Meritorious Service Medal, is normally awarded to recognize outstanding meritorious service and is intended to extensions. The Defense Meritorious Service Medal, when awarded for outstanding achievement, should provide clear and concise justification as to why an impact award is warranted. Finally, in accordance with DoDM 1348.33 Vol 4, paragraph 3.4, the Joint Service Commendation Medal may be awarded in the name of the Secretary of Defense to members of the U.S. Armed Forces who, while assigned to a JDA after 1 Jan 63, distinguish themselves by meritorious service or achievement. The Joint Service Commendation Medal, when awarded for meritorious service, is intended to honor an individual's accomplishments over a sustained period. It is normally awarded for a period of time greater than 12 months, encompassing the nominee's entire joint assignment, including any extensions, and will not be awarded for any period of service or achievement for which a Military Department medal is awarded.

Based on the applicant's official military record and documentation provided by the applicant, there is no evidence of an error or injustice as he does not meet the established criteria for the award of the Air Force Basic Military Training Instructor Ribbon with three Oak Leaf Clusters, Outstanding Airman of the Year Award, Air and Space Campaign Medal, Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, and the Joint Service Commendation Medal. To grant relief would be contrary to the criteria established by DoDM 1348.33 or AFMAN 36-2806 (currently Department of the Air Force Manual 36-2806).

Notwithstanding the above, after a thorough review of the applicant's official military record, they were able to verify the award of the Joint Meritorious Unit Award, as is currently annotated on his DD Form 214, dated 30 Jun 95. Additionally, they were able to verify the award of the Kuwait Liberation Medal – Kuwait. Accordingly, the applicant's record will be administratively corrected.

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 20 Jan 23 for comment (Exhibit D), but has received no response.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

1. The application was not 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 applicant believes he qualifies for the award of the Outstanding Airman of the Year Award based on the fact he was awarded the Air Training Command's Disaster Preparedness Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year award; however, the Board disagrees. In this regard, AFMAN 36-2806, states that the Outstanding Airman of the Year Ribbon was established to recognize certain competitors and awardees of the Twelve Outstanding Airmen of the Year Program and it is not a general award for Airman that have won other awards. The applicant further believes that he qualifies for the award of the Air Force Basic Military Training Instructor Ribbon with three Oak Leaf Clusters and the Air and Space Campaign Medal; however, the Board notes that technical school instructors are not eligible for the Air Force Basic Military Training Instructor Ribbon and the applicant's active service predates the award authorization period for the Air and Space Campaign Medal. Additionally, the applicant believes he qualifies for award of the Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, and the Joint Service Commendation Medal, because he deployed in support of Operation DESERT STORM. However, the applicant failed to provide any evidence, such as a Special Order or signed award citation, to show packages were submitted or he was awarded these medals. Therefore, the Board concurs with the recommendation of AFPC/DP3SP and finds a preponderance of the evidence does not substantiate the applicant's contentions. The Board also determined 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 (DAFI) 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. The Board does not find it in the interest of justice to waive the three-year filing requirement. Therefore, except for the administrative correction that will be made to the applicant's record, the Board finds the application untimely and 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 DAFI 36-2603, paragraph 2.1, considered Docket Number BC-2019-00984 in Executive Session on 18 May 23:

<i>Work-Product</i>	Panel Chair
<i>Work-Product</i>	Panel Member
<i>Work-Product</i>	Panel Member

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

- Exhibit A: Application, DD Form 149, w/atchs, dated 10 Dec 18.
- Exhibit B: Documentary evidence, including relevant excerpts from official records.

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Exhibit C: Advisory Opinion, AFPC/DP3SP, dated 18 Nov 22.

Exhibit D: Notification of Advisory, SAF/MRBC to Applicant, dated 20 Jan 23.

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.

7/27/2023

X	Work-Product	
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Board Operations Manager, AFBCMR

Signed by **Work-Product**