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

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2019-01556

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COUNSEL: NONE

HEARING REQUESTED: YES

APPLICANT'S REQUEST

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

- a. Armed Forces Reserve Medal.
- b. Noncommissioned Officer Professional Military Education (NCOPME) Graduate Ribbon with three bronze oak leaf clusters (BOLCs).
- c. Meritorious Service Medal (MSM) with one bronze OLC (**Will be Administratively Corrected**).
- d. Air Force Overseas Ribbon-Short Tour (**Will be Administratively Corrected**).

APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS

- a. The applicant served in the Reserve from 94 to 04 and should be entitled to receive the Armed Forces Reserve Medal.
- b. He attended two courses that he did not receive credit for to receive the NCOPME Graduate Ribbon with three BOLCs.
- c. The applicant received two MSMs, but he only received credit for one.
- d. The applicant served more than 179 days in support of Operation DESERT SHIELD/STORM and should receive credit for a short tour.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The applicant is a retired Air Force master sergeant (E-7).

On 31 Jul 94, the applicant was released from active duty for the purpose of retirement. His DD Form 214, Block 13, *Decorations, Medals, Badges, Commendations, Citations and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized*, reflects the following: Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with two devices, Air Force Good Conduct Medal with five devices, National Defense Services Medal with one device, Air Force Overseas Long Tour Ribbon with one device, Air Force Longevity Service Award Ribbon with

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four devices, NCOPME Graduate Ribbon with one device, and the Air Force Training Ribbon. He was credited with 7 years, 6 months, and 21 days of Foreign Service.

On 3 Dec 20, the AFBCMR staff notified the applicant his request for Air Force Overseas Ribbon-Short Tour, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, NCOPME Graduate Ribbon with three BOLCs, Meritorious Service Medal with one BOLC, and the Air Force Overseas Ribbon-Short Tour involve a correction to his record by the Office of Primary Responsibility (OPR) on an administrative basis without referral to the Board. With the exception of an administrative correction, the OPR(s) must prepare an advisory to assist the AFBCMR by addressing the guidance in effect at the time of the alleged errors or injustice. The applicant was informed upon receipt of his Military Human Resource Record (MHRR), the awards and decorations request will be forwarded to the Air Force Personnel Center (AFPC) for review and/or corrective action and the Board would not consider this portion of his request. The applicant was also informed if AFPC was unable to resolve his awards and decoration request, AFPC would resubmit the request to the AFBCMR on his behalf.

On 6 Oct 21, the Board received an AFPC/DP3SP advisory opinion. In view of the applicant's original contention and concerns expressed in his 22 Nov 18 application, the AFBCMR staff reopened his case in order for the Board to consider the award of Air Force Overseas Ribbon-Short Tour, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, NCOPME Graduate Ribbon with three BOLCs, Meritorious Service Medal with one BOLC, and the Air Force Overseas Ribbon-Short Tour.

Based on post-board actions, via two Form 6s, *214/215 Routing Slip* (undated and 9 Dec 24), AFPC/DP1SSP will administratively correct the applicant's records to reflect award of the Air Force Overseas Ribbon-Short Tour (AFOSR-ST) and the Meritorious Service Medal with one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster (MSM w/1 BOLC).

AIR FORCE EVALUATION

AFPC/DP3SP recommends denying the application. DP3SP is unable to verify award of the MSM with one BOLC, NCOPME Graduate Ribbon with three BOLCs, and the Armed Forces Reserve Medal.

Per AFMAN 36-2806, 10 Jun 19, paragraph A2.11, the Meritorious Service Medal was authorized by EO 11448, 16 Jan 69. 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.

Per AFMAN 36-2806, *Personnel: Awards and Memorialization Program*, paragraph A14.31 and A14.31.1.3, Air Force Enlisted Professional Military Education Graduate Ribbon was established on 28 Aug 62, to recognize in-residence graduates of a certified noncommissioned officer professional military education schools.

Eligibility: Prior to 31 Jul 14, the ribbon was only authorized for completion of a certified noncommissioned officer professional military education school:

A14.31.1.3.1. Noncommissioned Officer Preparatory Course.

A14.31.1.3.2. Airman Leadership School.

A14.31.1.3.3. Noncommissioned Officer Leadership School.

A14.31.1.3.4. Noncommissioned Officer Academy.

A14.31.1.3.5. Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy (or in-residence graduates of the Army Sergeant Major Academy, Navy Senior Enlisted Academy, Marine Corps Advanced Staff Noncommissioned Officer Academy, and Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Academy).

The applicant provided signed citation for the MSM with one BOLC; however; the document was not found in the official military personnel folder. Additionally, the applicant did not provide a Special Order for further consideration.

According to the applicant's DD Form 214, dated 31 Jul 94, he already received the NCOPME Graduate Ribbon with one BOLC for completion of the Noncommissioned Officer Academy and the Noncommissioned Officer Leadership School.

The Armed Forces Reserve Medal is awarded for Reserve service. The applicant's Reserve service was after his active-duty service. For further consideration, the applicant needs to send his request to the Air Reserve Personnel Center to address award of the Armed Forces Reserve Medal to the following address: HQ ARPC, 18420 East Silver Creek Ave, Building 390 MS-68, Buckley AFB, CO 80011.

To grant relief would be contrary to the criteria established by the AFMAN 36-2806.

Notwithstanding the above, they were able to verify award of the Air Force Overseas Ribbon-Short Tour. 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 2 Nov 21, for comment (Exhibit D), but has received no response.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

1. Although the application was not timely filed within the three-year limitation period established by 10 U.S.C. § 1552 (b), the untimeliness is waived in the interest of justice.
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, except for the administrative corrections, 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.

CERTIFICATION

The following quorum of the Board, as defined in Air Force Instruction (AFI) 36-2603, *Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records (AFBCMR)*, paragraph 1.5, considered Docket Number BC-2019-01556 in Executive Session on 3 Aug 22:

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Panel Chair
Panel Member
, Panel Member

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

- Exhibit A: Application, DD Form 149, w/atchs, dated 22 Nov 18.
- Exhibit B: Documentary Evidence, including relevant excerpts from official records.
- Exhibit C: Advisory Opinion, AFPC/DP3SP, dated 6 Oct 21.
- Exhibit D: Notification of Advisory, SAF/MRBC to Applicant, dated 2 Nov 21.

Taken together with all Exhibits, this document constitutes the true and complete Record of Proceedings, as required by AFI 36-2603, paragraph 4.11.9.

12/16/2024

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Board Operations Manager, AFBCMR
Signed by: Work-Product