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

### RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2019-02965

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COUNSEL: NONE

HEARING REQUESTED: NO

### APPLICANT'S REQUEST

Correct his DD Form 214, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*, to reflect award of the Southwest Asia Service Medal (SWASM).

### APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS

From 16 Jun 94 – 8 Sep 94, he was deployed to Riyadh Air Base, Saudi Arabia on Temporary Duty (TDY). He was assigned to the 6975<sup>th</sup> Intelligence Squadron in support of Operation Southern Watch/Desert Storm supporting the Joint Task Force – Southwest Asia (JTF-SWA) operational task force. His personal Air Force records were lost in a permanent change of station (PCS) move. He tried unsuccessfully to acquire his temporary duty (TDY) records from the Air Force Personnel Center and the National Archives and Records Administration.

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit A.

### STATEMENT OF FACTS

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

According to documentation submitted by the applicant, he was awarded The Desert Palm Award, for outstanding service in support of Operation Southern Watch/Desert Storm, from the 6975<sup>th</sup> Intelligence Squadron, Riyadh Air Base, Saudi Arabia, 16 Jun 94 – 8 Sep 94.

According to AF Form 910, *Enlisted Performance Report*, during the period of 11 Nov 93 to 10 Nov 94, while assigned to the 6975<sup>th</sup> Intelligence Squadron in support of Operation Southern Watch for Joint Task Force-Southwest Asia, the applicant was awarded the 4409<sup>th</sup> Operations Group First Sergeants "Desert Diamond Sharp Award".

On 31 Aug 03, the applicant was honorably discharged, and retired effective 1 Sep 03, having served 20 years, 4 months, and 20 days of active service, to include 1 year, 1 month, and 5 days of foreign service.

On 3 Dec 19, AFPC Recognition Team advised the applicant after reviewing his official records, to possibly provide administrative relief, they were unable to verify award of the SWASM. Should he have any source documents such as: paid travel voucher, AF Form 104, *Service Medal Award Verification*, and/or AF Form 77, *Letter of Evaluation*, please send them to the address listed in the letter. If no response within 30 days of the date of the letter, his request would be referred back to the Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records for adjudication.

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Controlled by: SAF/MRB

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Limited Dissemination Control: N/A

POC: [SAF.MRBC.Workflow@us.af.mil](mailto:SAF.MRBC.Workflow@us.af.mil)

On 6 Oct 21, the applicant re-submitted a DD Form 149 with the following documentation (Exhibit 4a):

- a. Leave and Earnings Statements (LES) during the period of 01 Jun 94 to 30 Sep 94 he received Hardship Duty Pay (HDP) and Hostile Fire/Imminent Danger Pay (HFP/IDP).
- b. The Desert Palm Award certificate, for outstanding service in support of Operation Southern Watch/Desert Storm from the 6975<sup>th</sup> Intelligence Squadron, Riyadh Air Base, Saudi Arabia, 16 Jun 94 – 8 Sep 94.
- c. Operation Southern Watch Certificate, 16 Jun 94 – 8 Sep 94

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

## **APPLICABLE AUTHORITY/GUIDANCE**

### **AFI 36-2803, *THE AIR FORCE MILITARY AWARDS AND DECORATIONS PROGRAM***

#### **6.15. Southwest Asia Service Medal (SWASM)**

6.15.1. The SWASM is awarded to all members of the Armed Forces of the United States who served in support of Operation DESERT SHIELD or DESERT STORM in one or more of the following areas from 2 August 1990 through 30 November 1995: The Persian Gulf, the Red Sea, the Gulf of Oman, the Gulf of Aden, that portion of the Arabian Sea that lies north of 100 N. latitude and west 680 E. longitude, as well as the total land areas of Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates.

6.15.2. Members serving in Israel, Turkey, Syria, and Jordan (including the airspace and territorial waters) directly supporting combat operations from 17 January 1991 through 30 November 1995 shall also be eligible for award of the SWASM. 6.15.2. To be eligible, a Service member must be attached to or regularly serving for one or more days with an organization participating in ground and/or shore (military) operations; attached to or regularly serving for one or more days aboard a naval vessel directly supporting military operations; actually participating as a crew member in one or more aerial flights directly supporting military operations in the areas designated above; or serving on temporary duty or 30 consecutive days or 60 nonconsecutive days. These time limitations may be waived for people participating in actual combat operations.

## **AIR FORCE EVALUATION**

AFPC/DP3SP recommends denying the application. After reviewing the applicant's official military personnel record and documentation provided by the applicant, they were unable to verify award of the SWASM. Correspondence was sent to the applicant on 03 Dec 19 requesting additional documentation to validate the request. As of the date of this advisory, no response was received from the applicant. While the applicant's EPR for the period 11 Nov 93 thru 10 Nov 94 identifies he was awarded "the 4409<sup>th</sup> Operations Group First Sergeants "Desert Diamond Sharp Award," absent additional documents they cannot verify he met the minimum criteria established for the SWASM award. Therefore, to grant relief, absent verification would be contrary to the criteria established by DoDI/M 1348.33, *DoD Military Decorations and Awards Program*, and AFMAN 36-2806, *Awards and Memorialization Program* (previously AFI 36-2803, *Military Decorations and Awards Program*)

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 Oct 21 for comment (Exhibit D), and the applicant replied on 15 Nov 21. In his response, the applicant contended additional documentation (Leave and Earning statement (s) (LES) Jun – Sep 94) he designates as “New Evidence,” submitted with the additional DD Form 149, dated 06 Oct 21 proves he was deployed to Saudi Arabia during the timeframe of 16 Jun 94 to 08 Sep 94.

The applicant's complete response is at Exhibit E.

### **FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION**

1. The application was not timely filed, but it is in the interest of justice to excuse the delay.
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 the victim of an error or injustice. While the Board notes the recommendation of AFPC/DP3SP against correcting the record, the Board finds a preponderance of the evidence substantiates the applicant's contentions. based on all of the available documentation: Specifically, based on the following:

- 1) The applicant's EPR for the period of 11 Nov 93 to 10 Nov 94, identifying he was deployed to SW Asia.
- 2) The award he received from the 4409th Ops Group (SW Asia Contingency Unit) First Sergeants.
- 3) The “Desert Palm Award” signed by the Commander of the 6975th Intelligence Squadron, Riyadh AB, Saudi Arabia.
- 4) LESs identifying HDP and HFP/IDP for the period of time in question.

In view of the foregoing, the Board finds the applicant did meet the criteria for award of the SWASM. Therefore, the Board recommends correcting the applicant's records as indicated below.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The pertinent military records of the Department of the Air Force relating to APPLICANT be corrected to show award of the Southwest Asia Service Medal (SWASM).

### **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-2019-02965 in Executive Session on 12 Jul 22:

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Panel Chair

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Panel Member

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Panel Member


**AFBCMR Docket Number BC-2019-02965**

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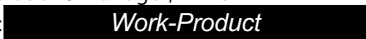
All members voted to correct the record. The panel considered the following:

- Exhibit A: Applications, DD Form 149, w/atchs, dated 21 May 19 and 06 Oct 21.
- Exhibit B: Documentary evidence, including relevant excerpts from official records.
- Exhibit C: Advisory opinion, AFPC/DP3SP, w/atchs, dated 11 Oct 21.
- Exhibit D: Notification of advisory, SAF/MRBC to applicant, dated 20 Oct 21.
- Exhibit E: Applicant's Response, dated 15 Nov 21.

Taken together with all Exhibits, this document constitutes the true and complete Record of Proceedings pertaining to Docket Number BC-2019-02965, as required by AFI 36-2603, paragraph 4.11.9.

X  2/24/2023  
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Board Operations Manager, AFBCMR  
Signed by:  *Work-Product*