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

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2019-04662

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COUNSEL: NONE

HEARING REQUESTED: NO

APPLICANT'S REQUEST

He be awarded the Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon (SAEMR).

APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS

From Jun 69 through Aug 71, the applicant completed an 89-day temporary duty assignment as an Air Police Augmentee and was required to complete Small Arms qualification training. He believes that he qualified for the SAEMR during that timeframe and has been wearing the SAEMR on his ribbon rack. However, he does not recall being awarded the Ribbon and is requesting his record be reviewed to verify he is authorized to wear the ribbon.

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit A.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The applicant is a former Air Force staff sergeant (E-5).

On 26 May 72, according to DD Form 214, *Report of Separation from Active Duty*, the applicant entered active duty and was discharged on 25 Apr 75 after three (3) years, three (3) months, and two days of active service. The SAEMR is not reflected in the block 24 *Decorations, Medals, Badges, Commendations, citations and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized*.

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

APPLICABLE AUTHORITY/GUIDANCE

According to DAFMAN 36-2806, *Military Awards: Criteria and Procedures*, paragraph A14.17, the Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon was established by SECAF on 28 Aug 62 and made effective on 1 Jan 63. The ribbon is awarded to regular Air Force, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve members, who, after 1 Jan 63, qualify as "Expert" with either the M-16 rifle (to include the M-4 and GAU-5) or an issued handgun on the Air Force qualification course, an appropriate orientation course prescribed in other Air Force Instructions, other Military Services' qualification course, or who satisfactorily complete the Combat Rifle Program. Members who, after 22 Jun 72, qualify as "Expert" with both the M-16 rifle (or M-4 or GAU-5) and an issued handgun, wear a bronze service star on the ribbon. The AF Form 522, *Ground Weapons Training Data and USAF Firearms Qualification*, or a letter from the small arms marksmanship monitor is used as the source documentation for this award. Members who qualify as "Expert" provides a

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copy of the AF Form 522 or letter to the manpower and personnel flight for update in the member's personnel records.

AIR FORCE EVALUATION

AFPC/DP3SP recommends denying the application. The applicant requests to be awarded the Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon (SAEMR) for duty performed as an Air Police Augmentee from Jun 69 through Aug 71. Based on documentation provided by the applicant and analysis of the facts, there is no evidence of error or injustice because there is no official documentation to verify the applicant qualified as an expert with either the M-16 or issued handgun. Additionally, on 22 Mar 21, the applicant was notified by HQ AFPC Recognition Team, that they were unable to verify award of the SAEMR, and advised him to provide source documentation to support the application.

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 22 Dec 22 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 Board concurs with the rationale and recommendation of AFPC/DP3SP and finds a preponderance of the evidence does not substantiate the applicant's contentions. The Board found no evidence the applicant qualified or was awarded the SAEMR. The Board also notes 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 Air Force Instruction 36-2603, *Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records (AFBCMR)*. The Board does not find it in the interest of justice to waive the three-year filing requirement. Therefore, 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 Air Force Instruction (AFI) 36-2603, *Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records (AFBCMR)*, paragraph 1.5, considered Docket Number BC-2019-04662 in Executive Session on 30 May 23:

- Work-Product** Panel Chair
- Work-Product** Panel Member
- Work-Product** Panel Member

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

Exhibit A: Application, DD Form 149, dated 4 Sep 19.

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

Exhibit C: Advisory Opinion, AFPC/DP3SP, w/atchs, dated 14 Dec 22.

Exhibit D: Notification of Advisory, SAF/MRBC to Applicant, dated 22 Dec 22.

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.

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