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

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2019-05061

Work-Product

COUNSEL: NONE

HEARING REQUESTED: NO

APPLICANT'S REQUEST

His DD Form 214, *Certificate of Release or Discharge From Active Duty*, Block 13, *Decorations, Medals, Badges, Commendations, Citations and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized*, be corrected to reflect award of the following:

1. Korea Defense Service Medal (KDSM).
2. Air Force Commendation Medal (AFCM).
3. Cold War Certificate.

APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS

He served in South Korea for over 30 consecutive days: two months and nine days according to his DD Form 214. He served during the Cold War, and he was also awarded the AFCM.

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit A.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The applicant is a former Air Force sergeant (E-4) who entered the Regular Air Force on 28 Jan 83.

On 27 Jan 87, according to the applicant's DD Form 214, he was released from the Regular Air Force and transferred to the Air Force Reserve (AFR). Block 13 indicates he was awarded the following: Air Force Training Ribbon, Air Force Good Conduct Medal, Air Force Longevity Service Award Ribbon, and the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award. Block 12f, *Foreign Service*, indicates the applicant served two months and nine days.

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

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AIR FORCE EVALUATION

AFPC/DP3SP recommends denying award of the KDSM; however, recommends granting award of the AFCM. The applicant provided a signed certificate and citation for the AFCM; however, the documents were not located within the applicant's official military personnel record. Additionally, there was no special order provided or located to verify the award. Without a copy of the special order awarding the AFCM, AFPC/DP3SP is unable to verify the applicant's eligibility; therefore, administrative relief is not possible.

AFPC/DP3SP located the applicant's AF Form 909, *Airman's Performance Report*, with inclusive dates of [redacted] *Work-Product* [redacted] which indicated a [redacted] *Work-Product* [redacted]. Also located in the applicant's record was a Standard Form 600, *Chronological Record of Medical Care*, which reflected the following dates at [redacted] *Work-Product* [redacted]. However, AFPC/DP3SP is unable to verify the applicant was in Korea for 30 consecutive days or 60 non-consecutive days to meet the award criteria.

Per Air Force Manual (AFMAN) 36-2806, *Awards and Memorialization Program*, section A2.14, the AFCM 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 meritorious achievement or service, valor, or heroism. The medal is awarded to U.S. and foreign military personnel in the grade of O-6 and below. The medal is awarded for achievement, service, or heroism that does not rise to the level of the Bronze Star Medal, or that does not rise to the level of the Airman's Medal. The medal may also be awarded for sustained meritorious performance by crewmembers.

Per section A14.12, the KDSM was authorized to recognize qualifying members of the U.S. Armed Forces who have served in the Republic of Korea after 28 Jul 54. To be eligible for this award, the member's service must have been in support of the defense of the Republic of Korea, and who were permanently assigned, attached, or detailed for 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days to a unit operating in the area of eligibility or who met one of the following criteria, regardless of time spent in the area of eligibility: was engaged in actual combat during an armed engagement, while in the line of duty was killed, or was wounded or injured and medically evacuated from the area of eligibility. Aircrew members accrue one day of eligibility for each day they flew into, out of, within, or over the area of eligibility. Members who serve in operations and exercises conducted in the area of eligibility are eligible for the medal provided the basic time criteria is met. Due to the extensive period of the award, the non-consecutive service period for eligibility remains cumulative throughout the entire period. Members who qualified for the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal by reason of service between 1 Oct 66 to 30 Jun 74, in an area for which the KDSM was subsequently authorized, remain eligible for both the KDSM and Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal. Award of the KDSM for this time period is a one-time exception to policy.

Notwithstanding the above, the applicant may qualify for the Cold War Certificate. The Department of the Army is the office of responsibility for the Cold War Certificate. Public Law 105-85, Section 1084, established a Cold War Recognition Certificate to recognize all members of the U.S. Armed Forces and qualified Federal Government civilian personnel who faithfully and honorably served the U.S. during the Cold War Era, from 2 Sep 45 to 26 Dec 91.

The applicant may order a certificate online at: <https://www.hrc.army.mil/content/903>. He may also write to the following address:

Commander, USAHRC
Cold War Recognition Program
ATTN: AHRC-PDP-A, Dept 480
1600 Spearhead Division Avenue
Fort Knox, KY 40122-5408

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 15 Mar 23 for comment (Exhibit D), but has received no response.

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. The Board concurs with the rationale and recommendation of AFPC/DP3SP and finds a preponderance of the evidence substantiates the applicant's contentions in part. Specifically, the applicant has provided a signed certificate and citation for the AFCM, which is sufficient to justify granting the applicant's request to award the AFCM. However, for the remainder of the applicant's request, the evidence presented did not demonstrate an error or injustice, and the Board therefore finds no basis to recommend granting award of the KDSM. Therefore, the Board recommends correcting the applicant's records as indicated below.

Notwithstanding the above, the applicant may qualify for the Cold War Certificate. The Department of the Army is the office of responsibility for the Cold War Certificate. Public Law 105-85, Section 1084, established a Cold War Recognition Certificate to recognize all members of the U.S. Armed Forces and qualified Federal Government civilian personnel who and honorably served the U.S. during the Cold War Era, from 2 Sep 45 to 26 Dec 91.

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RECOMMENDATION

The pertinent military records of the Department of the Air Force relating to APPLICANT be corrected to show award of the AFCM.

However, regarding the remainder of the applicant's request, the Board recommends informing the applicant the evidence did not demonstrate material error or injustice, and the application will only be reconsidered upon receipt of relevant evidence not already considered by the Board.

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-2019-05061 in Executive Session on 30 Nov 23:

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Panel Chair

Panel Member

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Panel Member

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

Exhibit A: Application, DD Form 149, w/atchs, dated 2 Oct 19.

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

Exhibit C: Advisory Opinion, AFPC/DP3SP, dated 12 Dec 22.

Exhibit D: Notification of Advisory, SAF/MRBC to Applicant, dated 15 Mar 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.

1/27/2025

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Board Operations Manager, AFBCMR
Signed by: USAF

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