

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-2020-00011**COUNSEL:** NONE**HEARING REQUESTED:** NO**APPLICANT'S REQUEST**

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

- a. Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for service in Korea
- b. Korea Defense Service Medal.

**APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS**

His record should be corrected so he can establish the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal was awarded for his service in Korea. He is a member of the Distinguished Flying Cross Society, which is completing a historical document pertaining to the Korean War and needs his records updated so that he can pass the information to them as part of the history.

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit A.

**STATEMENT OF FACTS**

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

On 2 May 69, according to AF Form 77a, *Supplemental Sheet to AF Forms 77, 707, 909, 910, 911 and 475*, dated 2 May 69, the applicant was assigned as a Loadmaster for one week while flying the "522 Mission" between Japan and the Republic of Korea.

On 30 Apr 85, according to DD Form 214, the applicant was discharged from the Regular Air Force for the purpose of retirement. Item 13, *Decorations, Medals, Badges, Citations and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized*, reflects: Distinguished Flying Cross, with 1 Oak Leaf Cluster (OLC); Meritorious Service Medal; Air Medal, with 4 OLCs; Air Force Commendation Medal; Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, with 1 OLC; Combat Readiness Medal, with 1 OLC; Air Force Good Conduct Medal with, 5 OLCs; National Defense Service Medal; Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal; Vietnam Service Medal, with 1 Service Star; Humanitarian Service Medal; Air Force Overseas Long Tour Ribbon; Air Force Longevity Service Award Ribbon, with 4 OLCs; NCO Professional Military Education Graduate Ribbon, with 1 OLC; Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon; and Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal. He was credited with 7 years, 10 months, and 8 days of Foreign Service.

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

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Controlled by: SAF/MRB  
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## **AIR FORCE EVALUATION**

AFPC/DP3SP recommends denying the application. According to Air Force Manual (AFMAN) 36-2806, paragraph A14.5., the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal is awarded to members of the U.S. Armed Forces who, after 1 Jul 58, participated in U.S. military operations, U.S. operations in direct support of the United Nations, or U.S. operations of assistance for friendly foreign nations. The Joint Chiefs of Staff designates operations that qualify for the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, specifies the degree of participation required, and defines the area of operations.

According to paragraph A14.12, the Korea Defense Service Medal was authorized by 10 U.S.C. § 9286, to recognize qualifying members of the U.S. Armed Forces who have served in the Republic of Korea subsequent to 28 Jul 54. Service must have been in support of the defense of the Republic of Korea. The medal is awarded to members who, during the period of the award, 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: (1) Was engaged in actual combat during an armed engagement; (2) While in the line of duty was killed or was wounded or injured and medically evacuated from the area of eligibility; (3) Aircrew members accrue 1 day of eligibility for each day they fly into, out of, within, or over the area of eligibility; (4) 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 Korea Defense Service Medal was subsequently authorized, remain eligible for both the Korea Defense Service Medal and Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal. Award of the Korea Defense Service Medal for this time period is a one-time exception to policy.

After a thorough review of the applicant's official military personnel record and provided documentation, it has been determined award of the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal as annotated on the applicant's DD Form 214 is for his service in the Dominican Republic. However, they are unable to verify award of the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for service in Korea and the Korea Defense Service Medal. Although it was verified the applicant flew over Korea for the duration of one week as indicated on his AF Form 77 <sup>1</sup>[sic], they cannot verify the applicant was permanently assigned, attached, or detailed for 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days to a unit operating in the area of eligibility; rendering him ineligible for award of the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for service in Korea and the Korea Defense Service Medal. To grant relief would be contrary to the criteria established by AFMAN 36-2806.

## **APPLICANT'S REVIEW OF AIR FORCE EVALUATION**

The Board sent a copy of the advisory opinion to the applicant on 3 Mar 23 for comment (Exhibit D), but has received no response.

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<sup>1</sup> AF Form 77a

**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 his records should be corrected based on his service in the Republic of Korea; however, there is no evidence the applicant was permanently assigned, attached, or detailed for 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days to a unit operating in the area of eligibility; rendering him ineligible for award of the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for service in Korea and the Korea Defense Service Medal. Accordingly, 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 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 Department of the Air Force Instruction (DAFI) 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 DAFI 36-2603, paragraph 2.1, considered Docket Number BC-2020-00011 in Executive Session on 17 Aug 23:

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

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

- Exhibit A: Application, DD Form 149, w/atchs, dated 14 Oct 19.
- Exhibit B: Documentary evidence, including relevant excerpts from official records.
- Exhibit C: Advisory Opinion, AFPC/DP3SP, dated 18 Nov 22.
- Exhibit D: Notification of Advisory, SAF/MRBC to Applicant, dated 3 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.

9/13/2023

X *Work-Product*

Board Operations Manager, AFBCMR

Signed by: *Work-Product*