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

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

Work-Product

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2020-00027

COUNSEL: *Work-Product*

HEARING REQUESTED: NO

APPLICANT'S REQUEST

The following medals be added to his DD Form 214, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*.

- a. Southwest Asia Service Medal (SWA)
- b. Kuwait Liberation Medal – Kuwait (KLM-Kuwait)
- c. Kuwait Liberation Medal – Saudi Arabia (KLM- Saudi Arabia)

APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS

He was deployed to *Work-Product*, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from Aug 90 to Mar 91. He received the Air Force Short Tour Ribbon for this deployment, but due to an oversight at the time of his separation he did not receive the medals.

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit A.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The applicant is an honorably discharged Air Force staff sergeant (E-5).

The applicant's Feb 91 *Leave and Earning Statement* (LES), provided by the applicant, reflects he received hostile fire pay.

On 1 Apr 91, according to his AF Form 910, *Enlisted Performance Report (AB thru TSgt)*, for the period of 1 Apr 90 – 31 Mar 91, Section V, *Rater's Comments*, and Section VI, *Indorser's Comments*, reflect that he deployed in support of Operation DESERT SHIELD/STORM.

On 1 Jun 92, according to DD Form 214, the applicant was discharged and credited with 5 years, 7 months and 17 days of Foreign Service. Item 24, *Decorations, Medals, Badges, Commendations, Citations and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized*, reflects: the NCO Professional Military Education Ribbon, Small Arms Exert Rifle Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal, Air Force Overseas Long Tour Ribbon with one Oak Leaf Cluster, Air Force Overseas Short Tour Ribbon, Air Force Longevity Service Award with one Oak Leaf Cluster, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with one Oak Leaf Cluster, and the Air Force Achievement Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster.

On 12 Aug 20, the Air Force Personnel Center Directorate of Assignments (AFPC/DP3AM) informed the applicant that they verified his service in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia but were unable to determine the inclusive dates of his deployment. They did, however, verify that the

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CUI//SP-MIL/SP-PRVCY**

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amount of Foreign Service reflected on his DD Form 214 is correct. The applicant was informed that he could use their letter as proof of “boots-on-the ground” for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

On 22 Jan 21, the AFPC Recognition Team informed the applicant that they were unable to verify the award of the Southwest Asia Service Medal and the Kuwait Liberation Medal. They advised him that the documents he provided did not support the verification of his specific request and that he should provide additional source documentation, such as; paid travel voucher, AF Form 104, Special Orders, and/or evaluation reports placing him in the area of responsibility. They informed the applicant if AFPC did not receive additional documents pertaining to his request for the Southwest Asia Service Medal and the Kuwait Liberation Medal within 30 days, his case would be referred to the Board. In an undated response, the applicant provided a copy of his AF Form 707, *Enlisted Evaluation Report*, dated 1 Apr 91.

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

APPLICABLE AUTHORITY/GUIDANCE

In accordance with DoDI 1315.18, *Procedures for Military Personnel Assignments*, the standard tour length for Airmen stationed OCONUS is 36 months accompanied and 24 months unaccompanied.

In accordance with Department of the Air Force Instruction 36-2110, *Total Force Assignments*, 15 Nov 21 (Chg 1, 16 Nov 22, Table 7.6, *Award or Adjustment of ODS and Short Tour Return Date for TDY*, Rule 11: In the area of responsibility (see note 9) arriving between 1 Aug 90 and 10 Jun 91, in support of Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm and served for 181 consecutive days or more, give Airman credit for a completed short tour.

Note 9. Use AFPC/DP3AM correspondence as the source document. Countries comprising the area of responsibility are: Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Oman, Bahrain, Qatar, Yemen, Turkey, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Syria, and the airspace and adjacent waters of these countries.

IAW Air Force Manual 36-2806, *Awards and Memorialization Program*, 10 Jun 19:

A14.25. Air Force Overseas Ribbon (Short and Long Tour). The ribbons were established on 12 October 1980 to recognize completion of an overseas tour. Prior to 6 January 1986, the ribbon was awarded to regular Air Force, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve members credited with completion of an overseas tour on or after 1 September 1980. Regular Air Force, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve members serving on or after 6 January 1986, may reflect all Air Force overseas tours credited during their career. For personnel who extended their original overseas tour and have entered into the extension or into an in-place consecutive overseas tour, award the respective ribbon when the members enters the extension or in-place consecutive overseas tour. Only one award for the entire period overseas is authorized unless the extension or in-place consecutive overseas tour results in the member being credited with another overseas tour. The short tour ribbon takes priority over the long tour ribbon when both are worn. An oak leaf cluster is worn on either ribbon for subsequent awards, respectively.

AIR FORCE EVALUATION

AFPC/DP3SP recommends denying the request. After a thorough review of the applicant's official military personnel record, award of the Southwest Asia Service Medal, Kuwait Liberation Medal – Kuwait and the Kuwait Liberation Medal – Saudi Arabia were unable to be verified. Correspondence was sent to the applicant requesting additional documentation in order to possibly administratively correct the record and he responded on 3 Feb 21. However, the enlisted performance report he submitted in response does not specify the inclusive dates of his deployment in support of Operation DESERT SHIELD/STORM. Additionally, although AFPC/DPAM was able to verify that he had "boots on the ground" in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, they too were unable to verify the inclusive dates.

In accordance with Air Force Manual (AFMAN) 36-2806, *Awards and Memorialization Program*, 10 Jun 19, paragraph A15.3, the Southwest Asia Service Medal is awarded to all members of the U.S. Armed Forces who served in support of Operation DESERT SHIELD or DESERT STORM in one or more of the following areas from 2 Aug 90 through 30 Nov 95: 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. Members serving in Israel, Turkey, Syria, and Jordan (including the airspace and territorial waters) directly supporting combat operations from 17 Jan 91 through 30 Nov 95 are also eligible for the Southwest Asia Service Medal. To be eligible, a service member must have been 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 served 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.

Additionally, IAW paragraph A12.6, the Kuwait Liberation Medal (Saudi Arabia) is authorized by the government of Saudi Arabia to members of the Coalition Forces who participated in Operation DESERT STORM. The medal is authorized for acceptance by Air Force members who: Served in support of operation DESERT STORM between January 17 and February 28, 1991, in one or more of the following areas: the Persian Gulf, the Red Sea, the Gulf of Oman, that portion of the Arabian Sea that lies north of 10 degrees north latitude and west of 68 degrees east longitude, the Gulf of Aden, or the total land areas of Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Omar, Bahrain, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates. To be eligible, members must have been: Attached to or regularly serving for 1 or more days with an organization participating in ground or shore operations; Attached to or regularly serving for 1 or more days aboard a naval vessel directly supporting military operations; Actually participating as a crew member in 1 or more aerial flights supporting military operations in the areas designated above; or Serving on temporary duty for 30 consecutive days during this period. That time limitation may be waived for people participating in actual combat operations.

Finally, IAW paragraph A12.7, the Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait) is authorized by the government of Kuwait to members of the U.S. Military who participated in Operations DESERT SHIELD, DESERT STORM, and the Cease Fire Campaign. Air Force members are authorized to accept and wear the Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait). The medal is authorized for acceptance by Air Force members who: Served in support of Operations DESERT SHIELD, DESERT STORM or the Cease Fire Campaign between August 2, 1990, and August 31, 1993, in one or more of the following areas: the Arabian Gulf, the Red Sea, the Gulf of Oman, that portion of the Arabian Sea that lies north of 10 degrees north latitude and west of 68 degrees east longitude, the

CUI//SP-MIL/SP-PRVCY

Gulf of Aden, or the total land areas of Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Omar, Bahrain, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates. To be eligible, members must have been: attached to or regularly serving for 1 or more days with an organization participating in ground or shore operations; attached to or regularly serving for 1 or more days aboard a naval vessel directly supporting military operations; actually participating as a crew member in 1 or more aerial flights directly supporting military operations in the areas designated above; or serving on temporary duty for 30 consecutive days or 60 non-consecutive days during this period. That time limitation may be waived for people participating in actual combat operations.

Therefore, based upon the review of his official military record and the documentation provided by the applicant, there is no evidence of an error or injustice as he does not meet the established criteria for award of the Southwest Asia Service Medal, the Kuwait Liberation Medal – Kuwait, and the Kuwait Liberation Medal – Saudi Arabia. To grant the request is contrary to the criteria established by AFMAN 36-2806 and DoDM 1348.33, *Manual of Military Decorations and Awards*.

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 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 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. The Board determines that, in accordance with AFI 36-2110, Table 7.6, *Award or Adjustment of ODS and Short Tour Return Date for TDY*, Rule 11, the applicant was awarded the Short Tour Ribbon for his deployment in support of Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm, and although his record does not include the inclusive dates of his deployment, it is reasonable to conclude that based on his “Boots on the Ground” verification and his pay record verifying he received hostile fire pay during the Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm time period, it is more likely than not that the applicant met the eligibility requirements for the awards. 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 that his DD Form 214, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*, issued on 1 Jun 92, be amended to reflect the Southwest Asia Service Medal (SWASM), the Kuwait Liberation Medal-Saudi Arabia (KLM-SA), and the Kuwait Liberation Medal-Kuwait (KLM-K).

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-2020-00027 in Executive Session on 30 May 23:

Work-Product [redacted] Panel Chair
Work-Product [redacted] Panel Member
Work-Product [redacted], Panel Member

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

- Exhibit A: Application, DD Form 149, w/atchs, dated 4 Oct 19.
- Exhibit B: Documentary evidence, including relevant excerpts from official records.
- Exhibit C: Advisory Opinion, AFPC/DP3SP, dated 8 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.

11/21/2023

X [redacted] *Work-Product*

Board Operations Manager, AFBCMR
Signed by: [redacted] *Work-Product*