

ADDENDUM TO RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2020-00090

XXXXXXXXXXXXXX

COUNSEL: NONE

HEARING REQUESTED: NO

APPLICANT'S REQUEST

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

- a. Air Force Noncommissioned Officer (NCO) Academy Graduate Medal ¹[sic] with Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster. **(Pending administrative correction)**
- b. Cold War Victory Medal ²[sic] **(Not within Board's authority)**
- c. Master Security Police Badge **(Previously denied)**
- d. Meritorious Service Medal

RESUME OF THE CASE

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

On 31 Oct 95, the applicant was furnished an honorable discharge and issued a DD Form 214. Item 13, *Decorations, Medals, Badges, Citations and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized*, reflects: Air Force Commendation Medal, with one Silver Oak Leaf Cluster; Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, with four Oak Leaf Clusters; Air Force Good Conduct Medal, with one Silver Oak Leaf Cluster; National Defense Service Medal; Air Force Overseas Short Tour Ribbon, with one Silver Oak Leaf Cluster; Air Force Longevity Service Award Ribbon, with three Oak Leaf Clusters; Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon, with one Bronze Service Star; and Air Force Training Ribbon. He was credited with 20 years and 22 days of active service.

On 1 Sep 19, the applicant submitted DD Form 149, *Application for Correction of Military Record Under the Provisions of Title 10, U.S. Code, Section 1552*, requesting consideration of award of the NCO Professional Military Education Graduate Ribbon, with Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster; Meritorious Service Medal; Cold War Certificate; and Master Security Police Badge.

On 9 Apr 21, Board staff notified the applicant his request for award of the NCO Professional Military Education Graduate Ribbon, with Oak Leaf Cluster; Meritorious Service Medal; and Cold War Certificate was forwarded to the Air Force Personnel Center (AFPC) for review and/or corrective action and the Board would not consider this portion of his request.

On 28 Apr 21 and 12 Jun 21, the Board considered and denied his request for correction to his DD Form 214 to reflect award of the Master Security Police Badge, finding that occupational badges are not required to be listed on the DD Form 214.

¹ Noncommissioned Officer Professional Military Education Graduate Ribbon

² Cold War Certificate

For an accounting of the applicant's original request and the rationale of the earlier decision, see the Air Force Board for Correction of Military Record Letter and Record of Proceedings at Exhibit E.

On 14 Dec 22, the Board received an AFPC/DP3SP advisory opinion. In view of the applicant's original contention and concerns expressed in his 1 Sep 19 application, the Board staff reopened his case in order for the Board to consider award of the Meritorious Service Medal.

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit F.

AIR FORCE EVALUATION

AFPC/DP3SP (Recognition Program) recommends granting the applicant's request for the Meritorious Service Medal. In accordance with Air Force Manual 36-2806, *Awards and Memorialization Program*, dated 10 Jun 19, paragraph A2.11, the Meritorious Service Medal was authorized by Executive Order 11448, 16 Jan 69. The medal 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 outstanding meritorious achievement or service. Normally the acts or services rendered are comparable to that required for the Legion of Merit, but in a duty of lesser though considerable responsibility. The medal may be awarded for outstanding achievement or service while serving in a combat zone, combat zone tax exclusion areas, and areas authorized for hostile fire pay, imminent danger pay, or hazardous duty pay. However, the Bronze Star Medal is the appropriate equivalent level award to recognize meritorious achievement or service performed under combat conditions.

Although the applicant provided a signed certificate and citation with official seal, which appear to be authentic, the documents were not found in the official military personnel record. Absent the special order which must have been completed and provided to the applicant, administrative relief is not possible. However, based on the documents provided by the applicant, which appear to be authentic, they recommend approval for award of the Meritorious Service Medal.

The Cold War Certificate, which is believed to be the award requested by the applicant, recognizes members of the Armed Forces and civilian personnel of the United States government who served the United States during the Cold War. This endeavor is conducted by the Department of the Army and the applicant may order his certificate online at: <https://www.hrc.army.mil>. He may also write to the following address:

Commander, USAHRC
ATTN: AHRC-PDP-A, Dept 480
1600 Spearhead Division Avenue
Fort Knox KY 40122-5408
(502) 613-9126

Notwithstanding the above, the applicant's eligibility for the NCO Professional Military Education Graduate Ribbon with one Bronze Oak Leaf cluster was verified. Accordingly, the applicant's record will be administratively corrected.

The complete advisory opinion is at Exhibit G.

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 H) 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 regarding award of the Meritorious Service Medal and finds a preponderance of the evidence substantiates the applicant's contentions. In addition, the applicant's request for the NCO Professional Military Education Graduate Ribbon will be administratively corrected following the Board.

Notwithstanding, regarding the Cold War Certificate, which is believed to be the award requested by the applicant, recognizes members of the Armed Forces and civilian personnel of the United States government who served the United States during the Cold War. This endeavor is conducted by the Department of the Army and is not within the Board's authority. However, the applicant may order his certificate online at: <https://www.hrc.army.mil>. Accordingly, 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 his DD Form 214, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*, issued in conjunction with his 31 Oct 95 discharge, Item 13, *Decorations, Medals, Badges, Citations and Campaign Ribbons Awarded and Authorized*, be amended to include the Meritorious Service Medal.

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-2020-00090 in Executive Session on 6 Jul 23:

, Chair, AFBCMR
, Panel Member
, Panel Member

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

Exhibit E: Original ROP w/Exhibits A-D, dated 28 Apr 21.
Exhibit F: Application, DD Form 149, w/atchs, dated 1 Sep 19.
Exhibit G: Advisory Opinion, AFPC/DP3SP, dated 14 Dec 22.
Exhibit H: 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 DAFI 36-2603, paragraph 4.12.9.

X

Board Operations Manager, AFBCMR