

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2020-00185

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

COUNSEL: NONE

HEARING REQUESTED: NO

APPLICANT'S REQUEST

Her DD Form 214, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*, to reflect award of the:

1. Air Force Commendation Medal (AFCM).
2. Global War on Terrorism Service (GWOT-S) Medal (**pending administrative correction**).
3. Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary (GWOT-E) Medal.

APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS

Her DD Form 214 is in error because her AFCM was received post-separation and the GWOT Medals were mandated after her discharge from the Air Force. She would like her records to be accurate for employment opportunities and to show to organizations such as Veterans of Foreign Wars. In the AFCM citation she provided, it states her support during Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit A.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

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

On 24 Aug 02, the applicant was furnished an honorable discharge, with Narrative Reason for Separation of Completion of Required Active Service, and was credited with 7 years, 4 months, and 19 days active service, of which 3 years, 1 month, 12 days was Foreign Service.

On 11 Dec 02, according to AF Form 2224, *The Air Force Commendation Medal*, provided by the applicant, reflects she was awarded the AFCM for the period 8 Feb 00 – 24 Aug 02.

On 29 Mar 21, Headquarters, Air Force Personnel Center (HQ AFPC) Recognition Team sent the applicant a letter requesting additional source documentation in support of her request for award of the AFCM and GWOT-E Medal but has not received a response.

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

AIR FORCE EVALUATION

AFPC/DP3SP recommends denying the applicant's request for award of the GWOT-E Medal and AFCM. Based on the documentation presented and review of the official record, there is no

error/injustice as the applicant does not meet the established criteria for award of the GWOT-E Medal. Additionally, although the applicant provided a signed certificate for the AFCM, which appears to be authentic, absent the special order, administrative relief is not possible.

In accordance with Air Force Manual (AFMAN) 36-2806, *Awards and Memorialization Program*, 10 Jun 19:

A2.14. *Air Force Commendation Medal (AFCM)*. The medal was established by SECAF, 24 March 1958 and announced in Department of the Air Force General Orders No. 16, 28 March 1958. 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 meritorious achievement or service, valor or heroism.

A2.14.1. *Eligibility*.

A2.14.1.1. The medal is awarded to U.S. and foreign military personnel in the grade of O-6 and below. Do not award to U.S. and foreign general or flag officer grades (O-7 and above).

A2.14.1.2. Awarded for achievement, service, or heroism that does not rise to the level of the Bronze Star Medal.

A2.14.1.3. Awarded for heroism that does not rise to the level of the Airman's Medal.

A2.14.1.4. The medal may also be awarded for sustained meritorious performance by crewmembers.

A14.10. *Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal*. The medal was established by EO 13289, 12 March 2003, to recognize members of the U.S. Armed Forces who deployed abroad for service in the War on Terrorism operations on or after 11 September 2001 to a date to be determined.

A14.10.2. *Eligibility*.

A14.10.2.1. Members must have been permanently assigned, attached, or detailed to a unit that participated, on or after 11 September 2001 in a designated Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal operation in the specified area of eligibility for that operation for 30 consecutive or 60 nonconsecutive days, or meet one of the following criteria, regardless of time spent in the area of eligibility:

A14.10.2.1.1. Were engaged in actual combat against the enemy and under circumstances involving grave danger of death or serious bodily injury from enemy action.

A14.10.2.1.2. While participating in the designated operation were killed or were wounded or injured and medically evacuated from the area of eligibility.

A14.10.2.2. Members participating as a regularly assigned aircrew member flying sorties into, out of, within, or over the area of eligibility in direct support of the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal designated operation are eligible for the medal. Each day that one or more sorties are flown in accordance with these criteria counts as 1 day toward the 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive day requirement.

A14.10.2.3. Members must have deployed abroad for a designated Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal approved operation to a designated area of eligibility for that operation.

A14.10.2.4. Members deployed to the Operation PACIFIC EAGLE – PHILIPPINES area of eligibility for unnamed counterterrorism operations during the period 23 May to 4 October 2017, prior to the start of Operation PACIFIC EAGLE – PHILIPPINES, are authorized the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal.

A14.10.3.1. Under no conditions will units or personnel within the United States be eligible for the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal.

A14.10.3.2. Award of the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal is authorized for qualifying service in Afghanistan during the period of 11 September 2001 to

30 April 2005. Service in Afghanistan after 30 April 2005 is recognized with the Afghanistan Campaign Medal.

A14.10.3.3. Award of the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal is authorized for qualifying service in Iraq during the period of 19 March 2003 to 30 April 2005. Service in Iraq during the period of 1 May 2005 to 31 December 2011, is recognized with the Iraq Campaign Medal.

A14.10.3.4. Award of the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal for service in Kosovo is limited to specified War on Terrorism operations that are NOT associated with operations in the Former Republic of Yugoslavia that qualify for award of the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal or the Kosovo Campaign Medal.

A14.10.3.5. Award of the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal is authorized for qualifying service in Iraq and Syria during the period of 15 June 2014 to 30 March 2016. Service in Iraq and Syria after 30 March 2016 is recognized with the Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal.

Award of the AFCM and GWOT-E Medal could not be verified based on the official record and the documentation provided by the applicant. While her AF Form 910, *Enlisted Performance Report (AB thru TSGT)*, for the period 22 Dec 00 – 21 Dec 01, states the applicant was the first to deploy in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM, whether she was in the area of eligibility for 30 consecutive, or 60 non-consecutive, days could not be verified. Further, correspondence was sent to the applicant on 29 Mar 21 requesting additional documentation to support administrative correction of her record to reflect award of the AFCM and GWOT-E Medal; however, a response was not received from the applicant.

After thorough review of the official military personnel record, award of the GWOT-S Medal was verified. Accordingly, the applicant's record will be administratively corrected to reflect this award.

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.
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 applicant did not meet the eligibility criteria for award of the GWOT-E Medal in accordance with AFMAN 36-2806, and despite the citation provided by the applicant, award of the AFCM could not be verified absent the associated special order. 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 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, with the exception of the aforementioned administrative correction, 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 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-2020-00185 in Executive Session on 25 Aug 23:

, Panel Chair
, Panel Member
, Panel Member

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

Exhibit A: Application, DD Form 149, w/atch, dated 24 Oct 19.
Exhibit B: Documentary evidence, including relevant excerpts from official records.
Exhibit C: Advisory Opinion, AFPC/DP3SP, dated 9 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.

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Board Operations Manager, AFBCMR