



Work-Product

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

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

**DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2020-00952**

Work-Product

**COUNSEL: NONE**

Work-Product

**HEARING REQUESTED: NO**

**APPLICANT’S REQUEST**

The deceased member’s DD Form 214, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*, be corrected to reflect the Humanitarian Service Medal.

**APPLICANT’S CONTENTIONS**

The deceased member was erroneously awarded the Medal for Humane Action and should have been awarded the Humanitarian Service Medal which better fits with the time period he served in the military. The deceased member was not in the Air Force during the time period for the Medal for Humane Action as this was connected to the Work-Prod...Airlift.

The applicant’s complete submission is at Exhibit A.

**STATEMENT OF FACTS**

The deceased member is a retired Air Force chief master sergeant (E-9).

On 31 Oct 83, the deceased member was released from active duty for retirement. His DD Form 214, Item 13, *Decorations, Medals, Badges, Commendations, Citations and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized*, reflects the following: Distinguished Flying Cross; Meritorious Service Medal; Air Medal, with 4 oak leaf clusters (OLC); Air Force Commendation Medal; Distinguished Presidential Unit Citation; Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, with 5 OLCs; Good Conduct Medal; Medal for Humane Action; National Defense Service Medal, with 1 OLC; Antarctica Service Medal; Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, with 1 OLC; Air Force Longevity Service Award Ribbon, with 4 OLCs; Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Award; Noncommissioned Officer Military Education Graduate Ribbon, with 2 OLCs; Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon; Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross, with device; Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal; Meritorious Unit Commendation; and U.S. Marine Presidential Unit Citation.

On 30 Aug 21, Board staff forwarded the applicant’s case to the Air Force Personnel Center (AFPC) for review and/or corrective action and the case was closed.

On 23 Dec 22, the Board received an AFPC/DP3SP advisory opinion. In view of the applicant’s original contention and concerns expressed in her 26 Dec 19 application, Board staff reopened her case in order for the Board to consider the award of the Humanitarian Service Medal.

## **AIR FORCE EVALUATION**

AFPC/DP3SP (Recognition Program) recommends denying the applicant's request for the deceased member to be awarded the Humanitarian Service Medal. Per Air Force Manual (AFMAN) 36-2806, *Awards and Memorialization Program*, section A15.5.8.1, the Medal for Humane Action is awarded to members of the U.S. Armed Forces and to others when recommended for meritorious participation, for service in the Berlin Airlift. Service must have been for at least 120 days during the period of 26 Jun 48 and 30 Sep 49, and in the following boundaries of the Berlin Airlift Operations Area. The boundaries of the Berlin Airlift Operations area are as follows: (1) Northern Boundary: 54th parallel north latitude; (2) Eastern Boundary: 14th meridian east longitude; (3) Southern Boundary: 48th parallel north latitude; and (4) Western Boundary: 5th meridian west longitude. Posthumous award of the medal may be made for any person who lost their life while, or as a direct result of, participating in the Berlin Airlift, without regard to length of service, if otherwise eligible.

Per section A14.14.1.1, the Humanitarian Service Medal is awarded to individual members or to entire military units who distinguished themselves by meritorious, direct participation in a military act or operation of a humanitarian nature. Direct participation is defined as "hands on" support at the site or sites of the military act or operation. For humanitarian operations outside of the United States; the following is provided: after 1 Apr 75, but on or before 6 Jan 16, the recipient must have been physically present at the designated location, having directly contributed to and influenced the action. The designated location is the immediate site(s) of the humanitarian operations as defined by the Department of State's request for assistance.

Verification for awarding the Humanitarian Service Medal or the Medal for Humane Action based on the official record and the documentation provided by the applicant could not be verified or substantiated. The deceased member's time of active duty service, from 5 May 54 to 31 Oct 83, was after the authorized award period for award of the Medal for Human Action. They are unable to determine why the award is annotated on the deceased member's DD Form 214. Additionally, they are unable to verify the deceased member was in support of an authorized Humanitarian Operation, rendering him ineligible for award of the Humanitarian Service Medal. To grant relief would be contrary to the criteria established by AFMAN 36-2806 (Currently DAFMAN 36-2806).

There are limited military personnel records on the deceased member. Should the applicant possess any official documentation to assist in the request to remove the Medal for Human Action and award the Humanitarian Service Medal, she should provide the documentation to AFPC/DP3SP.

The complete advisory opinion is at Exhibit D.

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

The Board sent a copy of the advisory opinion to the applicant on 4 Jan 23, for comment (Exhibit E), 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. If the applicant possesses any official documentation the deceased member is eligible for award of the Humanitarian Service Medal, she should provide this evidence to AFPC/DP3SP. 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-2020-00952 in Executive Session on 6 Jul 23:

Work-Product, Chair, AFBCMR  
Work-Product, Panel Member  
Work-Product, Panel Member

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

- Exhibit A: Application, DD Form 149, w/atchs, dated 26 Dec 19.
- Exhibit B: Documentary Evidence, including relevant excerpts from official records.
- Exhibit C: Letter to applicant, SAF/MRBC, dated 30 Aug 21.
- Exhibit D: Advisory opinion, AFPC/DP3SP, atchs, dated 23 Dec 22.
- Exhibit E: Notification of advisory, SAF/MRBC to applicant, dated 4 Jan 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.

9/1/2023  
Work-Product  
Board Operations Manager, AFBCMR  
Signed by: Work-Product