



Work-Product

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

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

**DOCKET NUMBER:** BC-2020-01124

Work-Product

**COUNSEL:** NONE

**HEARING REQUESTED:** NO

**APPLICANT’S REQUEST**

His DD Form 214, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*, Item 13, *Decorations, Medals, Badges, Citations and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized* be corrected to reflect award of the following:

1. Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (AFEM).
2. Korean Defense Service Medal (KDSM) (**Administratively Corrected**).

**APPLICANT’S CONTENTIONS**

He was assigned to the [Work-Product] where he deployed to [Work-Product] to support the [Work-Product] [Work-Product] During his time there he supported Operation URGENT FURY.

The applicant’s complete submission is at Exhibit A.

**STATEMENT OF FACTS**

The applicant is a retired Air Force master sergeant (E-7) who entered the Regular Air Force on 15 Apr 75.

According to the applicant’s AF Form 910, *TSgt, SSgt and Sgt Performance Report*, for the reporting period of 26 Aug 83 through 2 May 84, the applicant was assigned to the [Work-P...]  
[Work-Product] where he deployed to [Work-Product] on three separate occasions, one of which he supported the [Work-Product] rescue mission.

On 31 Oct 98, according to the applicants DD Form 214, he was retired from the Regular Air Force with 23 years, 6 months, and 16 days of service. Item 13 reflects the following awards: Air Force Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster (1 OLC), Air Force Commendation Medal with 2 OLCs, Meritorious Service Medal with 1 OLC, Air Force Training Ribbon, Southwest Asia Service Medal with 2 Service Stars, Air Force Overseas Short Tour Ribbon with 1 OLC, Air Force Overseas Long Tour Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal, Air Force Longevity Service

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Award with 4 OLCs, Noncommissioned Officer (NCO) Professional Military Education Ribbon with 1 OLC, Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon/Rifle, Kuwait Liberation Medal Saudi Arabia, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Valor, with 1 Silver OLC and 1 Bronze OLC, and the Air Force Good Conduct Medal with 1 Silver OLC and 1 Bronze OLC.

On 23 Mar 21, AFPC/DP3SP (Recognition Team) sent a letter to the applicant requesting additional documentation to verify eligibility for award of the AFEM. On this same date, a DD Form 215, *Correction to DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*, was published to correct the applicant's DD Form 214 to reflect award of the KDSM.

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

### **AIR FORCE EVALUATION**

AFPC/DP3SP recommends denying the applicants request for award of the AFEM. According to the applicant's AF Form 910, for the period 26 Aug 83 through 2 May 84, he deployed on three different occasions to [Work-Product]. During one of the deployments, he participated in the support of the [Work-Product] rescue mission. However, no dates were provided, and the length of support was unable to be verified.

Notwithstanding the above, DP3SP was able to verify award of the KDSM. Accordingly, the applicant's record was administratively corrected.

Per Air Force Manual (AFMAN) 36-2806, *Awards and Memorialization Program*, section 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.

Per section A14.5.1.1, service members must be bona fide members of the unit participating in or be engaged in the direct support of the operation for 30 consecutive days in the area of operations (or for the full period when an operation is less than 30 days duration), or for 60 nonconsecutive days provided the support involved entered the area of operations or met one or more of the following criteria: be engaged in actual combat, or duty which is equally as hazardous as combat duty, during the operation with armed opposition, regardless of time in the area, is wounded or injured and requires medical evacuation from the area of eligibility while participating in the operation, regardless of time, or accumulate 15 days of service (consecutive/nonconsecutive) while participating as a regularly assigned crewmember of an aircraft flying sorties into, out of, within, or over the area in direct support of the military operation.

Per section A14.5.1.1.4, prior to 1 Dec 95, members on aircrew status were only required to fly over or into the area of eligibility for one day during the conflict to qualify for the medal. Additionally, under no condition will members receive the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal

and another campaign medal for the same period of service, unless authorized by Department of Defense.

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 5 May 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 insufficient evidence of an error or injustice to award the AFEM as the length of service during his deployment in support of the [redacted] rescue mission could not be verified. Furthermore, 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)*. While the applicant asserts a date of discovery within the three-year limit, the Board does not find the assertion supported by a preponderance of the evidence. 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-2020-01124 in Executive Session on 25 Aug 23:

[redacted] Panel Chair  
 [redacted], Panel Member  
 [redacted] Panel Member

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

- Exhibit A: Application, DD Form 149, dated 22 Jan 20.
- Exhibit B: Documentary evidence, including relevant excerpts from official records.
- Exhibit C: AFPC/DP3SP Letter to Applicant, dated 23 Mar 21.
- Exhibit D: Advisory Opinion, AFPC/DP3SP, dated 8 Feb 23.
- Exhibit E: Notification of Advisory, SAF/MRBC to Applicant, dated 5 May 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.

3/26/2024

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Board Operations Manager, AFBCMR

Signed by: *Work-Product*

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