



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

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2020-02124

COUNSEL: NONE

HEARING REQUESTED: NO

APPLICANT'S REQUEST

He be awarded the Remote Combat Effects Campaign Medal (RCECM).

APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS

He served as a Remotely Piloted Aircraft Sensor Operator from 26 Oct 11 to 31 Jul 14 and meets the criteria for award of the RCECM.

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit A.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

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

On 31 Jul 14, the applicant was retired from active duty. His DD Form 214, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*, Block 13, *Decorations, Medals, Badges, Citations and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized*, reflects the following: Aerial Achievement Medal with nine oak leaf clusters, Air Force Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Air Force Achievement Medal with one oak leaf cluster, Meritorious Unit Award with four oak leaf clusters, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Valor Device with four oak leaf clusters, Combat Readiness Medal, Air Force Good Conduct Medal with four oak leaf clusters, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with one service star, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Korean Defense Service Medal, Air Force Overseas Ribbon Short, Air Force Overseas Ribbon Long, Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon with Gold Border with one oak leaf cluster, Air Force Longevity Service with two oak leaf clusters, Air Force Noncommissioned Officer Professional Military Education Graduate Ribbon with one oak leaf cluster, Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon with one service star, Air Force Training Ribbon, and NATO Medal.

On 18 Aug 20, the Board staff notified the applicant he failed to exhaust or that he did not indicate he exhausted other administrative avenues of relief prior to applying to the Board. Therefore, the applicant's awards and decorations request was sent to the Air Force Personnel Center (AFPC) for review and/or corrective action. Based on the forgoing, the applicant's case was closed. The applicant was also informed if AFPC was unable to resolve his awards and decorations request, AFPC would resubmit the request to the Board on his behalf.

[REDACTED]

On 6 Dec 22, the Board received an advisory opinion from AFPC/DP3SP. In view of the applicant's original contention and concerns expressed in his 12 May 20 application, the Board staff reopened the case in order for the Board to consider award of the RCECM.

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 (Recognitions Program) recommends denying award of the RCECM. In accordance with (IAW) the Secretary of the Air Force (SECAF), 30 Oct 19, the SECAF approved establishment of the RCECM on 22 May 19 to recognize U.S. Air Force military members in a non-deployed status who directly participated in a Department of Defense (DoD) combat operation from a remote location. The medal is awarded to Air Force military members who, on or after 11 Sep 01, distinguished themselves by direct participation in a DoD combat operation, under the following conditions:

- Was assigned or attached to a unit directly supporting a DoD combat operation as approved by the Chief of Staff of the Air Force (operation defined in AFMAN 36-2806, *Awards and Memorialization Program* as 1) a military action or the carrying out of a strategic, operational, tactical, service, training or administrative military mission, and 2) the process of carrying on combat, including movement, supply, attack, defense, and maneuvers needed to gain the objectives of any battle or campaign),

- Was serving in a *remotely* piloted aircraft; cyber; space; or Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance career field, • Personally provided hands-on employment of a weapon system that had direct and immediate impact on a named combat operation ("hands-on defined as employment of a weapons system, including *remote* employment, or other activities that had a direct, immediate, and on-site *effect* on the outcome of an engagement or similar operation), and

- Was not physically exposed to hostile actions or at risk of exposure to hostile action

IAW DAFM 36-2806, para. 4.2.2. Only one campaign, expeditionary, or service award is authorized for the same act, achievement, or period of service, unless the criteria authorizes multiple awards. Para A14.8.1.3. Under no conditions will an airman receive a RCECM and a DoD or DAF campaign or expeditionary medal or ribbon for the same period of service. This medal is not interchangeable with other DoD or Air Force campaign or expeditionary medals or ribbons.

The applicant was previously awarded the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with one Bronze Service Star during the same authorized award period of service for Operation ENDURING FREEDOM in Afghanistan from 24 Jul 13 to 1 Sep 13, rendering them ineligible for award of the RCECM.

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 9 Mar 24 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 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. Specifically, the applicant was awarded the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with one Bronze Service Star during the same authorized award period making him ineligible for award of the RCECM. Therefore, the Board 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-2020-02124 in Executive Session on 10 Sep 24:

[REDACTED], Panel Chair
[REDACTED], Panel Member
[REDACTED], Panel Member

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

- Exhibit A: Application, DD Form 149, w/atchs, dated 12 May 20.
- Exhibit B: Documentary evidence, including relevant excerpts from official records.
- Exhibit C: Advisory Opinion, AFPC/DP3SP, dated 6 Dec 22.
- Exhibit D: Notification of Advisory, SAF/MRBC to Applicant, dated 9 Mar 24.

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.

 Expired certificate

X

[REDACTED]
Board Operations Manager, AFBCMR
[REDACTED]