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

ADDENDUM TO RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2020-02428

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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 awards:

- a. Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon
- b. Air Force Commendation Medal

RESUME OF THE CASE

The applicant is a former Air Force airman first class (E-3) who entered the Regular Air Force on 28 Aug 07.

On 18 Feb 11, the applicant was honorably discharge from the Regular Air Force. Item 13, *Decorations, Medals, Badges, Commendations, Citations and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized*, reflects: Air Force Achievement Medal; Air Force Outstanding Unit Award; Air Force Good Conduct Medal; National Defense Service Medal; Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; Air Force Training Ribbon. He was credited with 3 years, 5 months, and 21 days of active service. He was not credited with foreign service.

On 2 Aug 20, the applicant submitted a DD Form 149 requesting consideration of his military records be corrected to reflect the following:

- a. Restoration of rank from airman first class to senior airman (E-4).
- b. Include overseas service time of 18 Jan 10 to 17 Apr 10, on his DD Form 214. **(Pending Administrative Correction).**
- c. Purge/remove derogatory paper from his Official Military Personnel File (OMPF)(Restriction to access [Air Force Base].
- d. The phrase "member has not completed first full term of service" be removed from his DD Form 214.
- e. Purge the Articles 15 for spice use and false official statement from his OMPF.
- f. Add Operation Iraqi Freedom to his DD Form 214.

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g. Add the Air Force Commendation Medal (Air Force Commendation Medal) to his DD Form 214.

h. Add Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon to his DD Form 214.

On 31 Mar 21, the Board staff notified the applicant their request for the awards and decorations portion of his request 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 18 May 21, the AFPC Recognition Team informed the applicant they were unable to verify award of the Air Force Commendation Medal and Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon. They invited the applicant to provide source documents placing him in the area of responsibility and informed him he should send them to AFPC within 30 days of the date of their letter. After 30 days, the case would be referred to the Board.

On 29 Jun 21, the Board considered and denied the applicant's non recognition requests listed in paragraph a and c-f above. Item b is pending administrative correction.

For an accounting of the applicant's original request and the rationale of the earlier decision, see the AFBCMR Letter and Record of Proceedings at Exhibit G.

On 21 Dec 22, the Board received an AFPC/DP3SP advisory opinion. In view of the applicant's original contention and concerns expressed in his 2 Aug 20 application, Board staff reopened their case in order for the Board to consider the award of Air Force Commendation Medal and Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon.

AIR FORCE EVALUATION

AFPC/DP3SP (Recognition Program) recommends denying the applicant's request for award of the Air Force Commendation Medal and Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon. According to Air Force Manual (AFMAN) 36-2806, *Awards and Memorialization Program*, paragraph A2.14., the Air Force Commendation 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. The medal is awarded to U.S. and foreign military personnel in the grade of O-6 and below. It is awarded for achievement, service, or heroism that does not rise to the level of the Bronze Star Medal; for heroism that does not rise to the level of the Airman's Medal; and for sustained meritorious performance by crewmembers.

According to paragraph A14.33., the Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon is awarded to regular Air Force, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve members, who, after 1 Jan 63, qualify as "Expert" with either the M-16 rifle (to include the M-4 and GAU-5) or an issued handgun on the Air Force qualification course, an appropriate orientation course prescribed in other Air Force Instructions, other Military Services' qualification course, or who satisfactorily complete the Combat Rifle Program. Members who, after 22 Jun 72, qualify as "Expert" with both the M-16 rifle (or M-4 or GAU-5) and an issued handgun, wear a bronze service star on the ribbon. AF Form 522, *Ground Weapons Training Data and USAF Firearms Qualification*, or a letter from the small arms marksmanship monitor is used as the source documentation for this award. Members who qualify as "Expert" provide a copy of AF Form 522 or letter to the manpower and personnel flight for update in the member's personnel records.

After a thorough review of the applicant's official military personnel record, they were unable to verify award of the Air Force Commendation Medal and Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon. The applicant has not provided documentation such as a Special Order, signed certificate or citation to verify award of the Air Force Commendation Medal. While he did provide a picture of a 25-Meter Scaled Silhouette Timed-Fire Target, 50 M Use Long Range Sight, there was no official documentation found in his military personnel record to verify award of the Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon.

Additionally, on 18 May 21, they sent the applicant a letter requesting additional documentation in order for them to administratively correct his record and award the Air Force Commendation Medal and Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon, but as of the date of this advisory, a response has not been received. To grant relief would be contrary to the criteria established by AFMAN 36-2806.

The complete advisory opinion is at Exhibit H.

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 I), 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. Therefore, other than the pending administrative corrections to his record, the Board recommends against correcting the applicant's records.

RECOMMENDATION

The Board recommends informing the applicant the evidence did not demonstrate material error or injustice, 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-2020-02428 in Executive Session on 15 Jun 23:

Work-Product, Panel Chair

Work-Product, Panel Member

Work-Product, Panel Member

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

- Exhibit G: Record of Proceedings, w/Exhibits A-F, 29 Jun 21
- Exhibit H: Advisory Opinion, AFPC/DP3SP, dated 21 Dec 22

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Exhibit I: 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.

10/6/2023

X

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Board Operations Manager, AFBCMR

Signed by: *Work-Product*

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