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

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### RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2020-03092

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COUNSEL: NONE

HEARING REQUESTED: NO

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### APPLICANT'S REQUEST

His DD Form 214, *Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge*, be updated to reflect award of the:

- a. Air Force Commendation Medal. **(Administratively Corrected)**
- b. Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon.

### APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS

The Air Force Commendation Medal was awarded after his Vietnam service. He was awarded the Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon, but it is not reflected in his record. The scores he received were within the qualification criteria for both the M-16 and .38 revolver.

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit A.

### STATEMENT OF FACTS

The applicant is a former Air Force staff sergeant (E-5).

According to AF Form 522, *Qualification Score Card*, dated 22 May 72, provided by the applicant, entries reflect the applicant qualified with the rifle and pistol; however, the form does not reflect he qualified as "expert."

On 8 Sep 72, the applicant was released from active duty and issued a DD Form 214. He was credited with four years of active-duty service and one year of Foreign Service. Item 24, *Decorations, Medals, Badges, Commendations, Citations and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized*, reflects the National Defense Service Medal (NDSM), Vietnam Service Medal (VSM), Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal (RVCM), and Air Force Good Conduct Medal (AFGCM).

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 (Recognition Program) recommends denying the application. After a thorough review of the official military personnel record, they were able to verify award of the Air Force

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Commendation Medal. Accordingly, the applicant's record will be administratively corrected. However, they were unable to verify the applicant meets the established criteria for award of the Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon.

In accordance with AFMAN 36-2806, *Awards and Memorialization Program*, the Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon was established by the Secretary of the Air Force on 28 Aug 62 and effective 1 Jan 63. The 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 Service's qualification course, or who satisfactorily complete the Combat Rifle Program. The 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.

The AF Form 522, provided by the applicant, does not indicate he qualified as "expert" with either the M-16 rifle or issued handgun, rendering him ineligible for award of the Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon. To grant relief would be contrary to the criteria established by AFMAN 36-2806.

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 18 Feb 22 for comment (Exhibit D) but has received no response.

#### **FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION**

1. The application was not timely filed. The Board notes the applicant did not file the application within three years of discovering the alleged error or injustice, as required by Section 1552 Title 10, United States Code, and Department of the Air Force Instruction (DAFI) 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.
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 AF Form 522 indicates the applicant's scores were sufficient for basic qualification with the M-16 rifle and handgun; however, the form does not indicate the applicant qualified as "expert" in either weapon. Therefore, 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-2020-03092 in Executive Session on 31 May 22 and 19 Jul 24:

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

Exhibit A: Application, DD Form 149, w/atchs, dated 31 Jul 20.

Exhibit B: Documentary evidence, including relevant excerpts from official records.

Exhibit C: Advisory Opinion, AFPC/DP3SP, dated 31 Oct 21.

Exhibit D: Notification of Advisory, SAF/MRBC to Applicant, dated 18 Feb 22.

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.

4/8/2025

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