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UNITED STATES AIR FORCE BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2020-03369

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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 updated to reflect the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal (GWOTSM).

APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS

While on active duty from 11 Sep 01 to 31 Oct 04, he was attached to a unit that indirectly supported personnel who deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. His unit developed and implemented advanced satellite/wideband communications training for personnel deploying to specific locations. Subsequently, on 31 Oct 04, when he retired, the GWOTSM was still new, and he was not considered for the medal. Furthermore, recipients did not begin to receive the GWOTSM until after he retired.

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit A.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The applicant is a retired Air Force master sergeant (E-7).

On 31 Oct 04, according to DD Form 214, the applicant retired after 20 years and 8 days of active service.

According to AF Forms 911, *Senior Enlisted Performance Report (MSGT thru CMSGT)* for the reporting periods 17 Mar 01 thru 16 Mar 02 and 17 Mar 02 thru 16 Mar 03, provided by the applicant, he was assigned to the Air and Education Training Command, as an Instructor, Satellite, Wideband and Telemetry Systems and a Training Specialist.

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

APPLICABLE AUTHORITY/GUIDANCE

AFMAN 36-2806, Awards and Memorialization Program

A14.11.2. Eligibility.

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A14.11.2.1. The medal is awarded to members who participated in the War on Terrorism operations outside of the designated areas of eligibility for the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, and Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal on or after 11 September 2001 to a future date to be determined.

A14.11.2.2. The member must have served on active duty, on or after 11 September 2001, for a minimum of 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days, not including initial accession training, or regardless of time served while on active duty, on or after 11 September 2001, and:

A14.11.2.2.1. Was engaged in actual combat; or

A14.11.2.2.2. Was killed, wounded, or died not due to negligence or wrongful misconduct.

A14.11.2.3. CSAF authorized award of the medal to members who directly or indirectly supported the designated operations, and meet all other eligibility criteria.

A14.11.2.4. Members supporting War on Terrorism operations in a non-deployed status, whether stationed at home or overseas are eligible for the medal.

A14.11.2.5. Effective 19 July 2005, CSAF authorized award of the medal to Air Force accessions 30 days following entry on extended active duty.

Table A14.10. Global War on Terrorism Service Medal Approved Operations.

OPERATION	DATES
Airport Security Operations	27 September 2001 – 31 May 2002
NOBEL EAGLE	11 September 2001 – to be determined
ENDURING FREEDOM	11 September 2001 – to be determined
IRAQI FREEDOM	29 March 2003 – 31 August 2010
NEW DAWN	1 September 2010 – 31 December 2011
OBSERVANT COMPASS	1 October 2011 – 30 September 2017
INHERENT RESOLVE	15 June 2014 – to be determined
FREEDOM'S SENTINEL	1 January 2015 – 31 August 2021
ODDYSEY LIGHTNING	1 August 2016 – 17 January 2017
PACIFIC EAGLE-PHILIPPINES	5 October 2017 – to be determined
ENDURING SENTINEL	1 September 2021 – to be determined

AIR FORCE EVALUATION

AFPC/DP3SP recommends denying the applicants request, indicating they are unable to determine if the applicant served in support of a Global War on Terrorism Service Medal operation in accordance with AFMAN 36-2806, and attachment A14.10. *Global War on Terrorism Service Medal Approved Operations*.

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 22 Mar 23 for comment (Exhibit D), and the applicant replied on 25 Mar 23. In his response, the applicant contended from Mar 01 to Oct 04, he supported personnel deploying in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM and

Operation NOBLE EAGLE, as a trainer for joint service satellite and wideband basic and advanced level qualifications. Furthermore, he provided distance training to personnel while they were deployed. The applicant provided evaluations from Mar 02 and Mar 03 as evidence of his support for deployed personnel. Finally, the applicant notes other peers have received the GWOTSM, and believes the administrative oversight is due to being assigned to a geographically separated unit on a U.S. Army installation.

The applicant's complete response is at Exhibit E.

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 and finds a preponderance of the evidence does not substantiate the applicant's contentions. The Board found no evidence the applicant served in support of a GWOTSM approved operation. 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)*. 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 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-2020-03369 in Executive Session on 30 Nov 23:

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	Wor... Panel Member
	Work-P... Panel Member

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

- Exhibit A: Application, DD Form 149, w/atchs, dated 9 Oct 20.
- Exhibit B: Documentary evidence, including relevant excerpts from official records.
- Exhibit C: Advisory Opinion, AFPC/DP3SP, w/atchs, dated 22 Dec 22.
- Exhibit D: Notification of Advisory, SAF/MRBC to Applicant, dated 22 Mar 23.
- Exhibit E: Applicant's Response, w/atchs, dated 24 Mar 23.

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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.

3/14/2024

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