



Work-Product

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

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

**DOCKET NUMBER:** BC-2021-01448

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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 amended to reflect award of the Afghanistan Campaign Medal.

**APPLICANT’S CONTENTIONS**

To be awarded the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, a member must have 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days in Afghanistan. While participating as a regularly assigned aircrew member flying sorties into, out of, within, or over Afghanistan in direct support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM; each day that one or more sorties are flown in accordance with these criteria shall count as one day towards the 30 consecutive or 60 nonconsecutive day requirement. He provided flight records that show he flew 60 combat missions over Afghanistan filling the need for 60 nonconsecutive days over Afghanistan.

The applicant’s complete submission is at Exhibit A.

**STATEMENT OF FACTS**

The applicant is a retired Air Force senior master sergeant (E-8).

On 13 July 1994, according to DD Form 214, the applicant entered the Regular Air Force and on 31 July 2017 he was discharged for the purpose of retirement. Item 13, *Decorations, Medals, Badges, Citations and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized*, reflects: Meritorious Service Medal, with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters; Air Medal, with seven Oak Leaf Clusters; Aerial Achievement Medal, with one Oak Leaf Cluster; Air Force Commendation Medal, with two Oak Leaf Clusters; Air Force Achievement Medal; Meritorious Unit Award, with one Oak Leaf Cluster; Outstanding Unit Award, with Valor Device and 15 Oak Leaf Clusters; NATO Medal; Combat Readiness Medal, with one Oak Leaf Cluster; Air Force Good Conduct Medal, with six Oak Leaf Clusters; National Defense Service Medal, with one Service Star; Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal; Kosovo Campaign Medal, with one Service Star; Global War On Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, with two Service Stars; Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; Korean Defense Service Medal; Humanitarian Service Medal; Nuclear Deterrence Operations Service Medal, with one Oak Leaf Cluster; Air Force Overseas Ribbon Short; Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon, with Gold Border and four Oak Leaf Clusters; Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon, with one Oak Leaf Cluster; Air Force Longevity Service Ribbon, with four Oak Leaf Clusters, USAF NCO PME Graduate Ribbon, with one Oak Leaf Cluster; Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon (Pistol), Air Force Training Ribbon, NATO Medal.

**AFBCMR Docket Number BC-2021-01448**

Work-Product

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On 1 August 2017, according to Special Order No. [Work-Product], dated 23 August 2016, the applicant was retired. He was credited with 23 years and 18 days of active service.

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 award of the Afghanistan Campaign Medal. In accordance with Air Force Manual (AFMAN) 36-2806, *Awards and Memorialization Program*, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal was established by Public Law 108-234, dated 28 May 2004, and Executive Order 13363, dated 29 November 2004, to recognize service members who serve or have served in the country of Afghanistan in support of the War on Terrorism operations. The period of eligibility for the medal is 11 September 2001 to a future date to be determined, and the area of eligibility encompasses all land and air space of the country of Afghanistan. The medal is awarded to members who, during the period of the award, were permanently assigned, attached, or detailed for 30 consecutive days or 60 non-consecutive days to a unit operating in the area of eligibility or who meets one of the following criteria, regardless of time spent in the area of eligibility: Were engaged in combat during an armed engagement; While participating in an operation or on official duties were killed, or were wounded or injured and medically evacuated from the area of eligibility. Aircrew members accrue one day of eligibility for each day they fly into, out of, within, or over the area of eligibility. Under no condition will personnel or units receive the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, or the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal for the same action, time, or period of service.

Although the applicant provided documentation for aerial flights in Afghanistan, it appears the applicant has been awarded the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal with two Service Stars for service in Afghanistan; rendering him ineligible for award of the Afghanistan Campaign Medal as it would be considered dual recognition. 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 25 April 2023 for comment (Exhibit D) 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 applicant was awarded the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal with two Service Stars for service in Afghanistan; rendering him ineligible for award of the Afghanistan Campaign Medal as it would be considered dual recognition. Therefore, 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 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 (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. The Board does not find it in the interest of justice to waive the three-year filing requirement. Accordingly, 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 DAFI 36-2603, paragraph 2.1, considered Docket Number BC-2021-01448 in Executive Session on 19 October 2023:

- Work-Product, Panel Chair
- Work-Product, Panel Member
- Work-Product, Panel Member

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

- Exhibit A: Application, DD Form 149, w/atchs, dated 29 January 2021.
- Exhibit B: Documentary evidence, including relevant excerpts from official records.
- Exhibit C: Advisory Opinion, AFPC/DP3SP, dated 20 January 2023.
- Exhibit D: Notification of Advisory, SAF/MRBC to Applicant, dated 25 April 2023.

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.

11/3/2023

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Board Operations Manager, AFBCMR  
Signed by: Work-Product