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

### RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2021-01804

Work-Product

COUNSEL: NONE

HEARING REQUESTED: NO

### APPLICANT'S REQUEST

Amend her DD Form 214, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*, to:

- a. Correct Item 2. *Department, Component and Branch*.
- b. Correct Item 6. *Reserve Oblig. Term. Date*.
- c. Correct Item 9. *Command to Which Transferred*.
- d. Correct Item 18. *Remarks*, to reflect time served in Kuwait in support of Operation SOUTHERN WATCH and Operation DESERT FOX from 13 Dec 98 to 29 Jan 99.

### APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS

The separation information on her DD Form 214 is incorrect. She was scheduled to enter the United States Air Force Reserve (USAFR) upon separation, but did not do so; therefore, items 2, 6, and 9 are incorrect. Item 18 does not reflect time served in Kuwait in support of Operation SOUTHERN WATCH and Operation DESERT FOX from 13 Dec 98 to 29 Jan 99. The corrected DD Form 214 is requested as proof that USAFR service did not occur and to reflect her service in a combat zone tax exclusion (CZTE) and hostile fire/imminent danger zone. She was unaware at the time that there was an error. Only after recent research did she discover there were inaccuracies and their importance.

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit A.

### STATEMENT OF FACTS

On 19 Jun 96, according to DD Form 4, *Enlistment/Reenlistment Document – Armed Forces of the United States*, the applicant entered the Air Force Reserve for a period of eight years, for enlistment in the Delayed Entry/Enlistment Program (DEP).

On 8 Jan 97, according to DD Form 4, the applicant was discharged from the DEP and enlisted in the Regular component of the Air Force for a period of four years.

According to documentation provided by the applicant, she was awarded the Air Force Expeditionary Medal for Operation SOUTHERN WATCH and Operation DESERT FOX during the period 13 Dec 98 to 29 Jan 99.

On 12 Oct 99, according to Commander, 522d Fighter Squadron memorandum, Award of Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the applicant was recommended for award of the Armed Forces

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Controlled by: SAF/MRB

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Limited Dissemination Control: N/A

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Expeditionary Medal for tour dates 12 Dec 98 to 31 Jan 99, in support of Operation SOUTHERN WATCH.

On 24 Aug 00, according to AF Form 1288, *Application for Ready Reserve Assignment*, the applicant applied for assignment with the Air Force Reserve via the PALACE FRONT program.

On 7 Jan 01, according to DD Form 214, the applicant was released from the Regular Air Force and transferred to the Air Force Reserve. Her separation code and corresponding narrative reason for separation is MBK, *Completion of Required Active Service*, and she was credited with four years active service. Her Reserve Obligation Termination Date is 7 Jan 05. Item 13, *Decorations, Medals, Badges, Citations and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized*, reflects: Air Force Training Ribbon; **Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal**; Air Force Achievement Medal; Air Force Good Conduct Medal; Longevity Service Medal/Ribbon.

On 19 Jun 04, according to Reserve Order Work-Product, dated 22 Jun 04, the applicant was honorably discharged from the Air Force Reserve.

On 24 Jan 23, according to Air Force Personnel Center Directorate of Assignments (AFPC/DP3AM) letter, the applicant was informed they were able to confirm verification for her service in Kuwait, for the period 13 Dec 98 to 29 Jan 99, for 1 month and 17 days. They have requested her DD Form 214 be corrected to reflect the aforementioned dates. However, since specific locations are not annotated on the DD Form 214, the applicant was informed to use their letter as proof of boots-on-ground for Kuwait.

On 24 Jan 23, according to DD Form 215, *Correction to DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*, Item 12f, *Foreign Service*, was changed from "00 00 00" to "00 01 17."

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

## APPLICABLE AUTHORITY

Executive Order 10977, *Establishing the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal*, dated 4 Dec 61; DoDM 1348.33, Volume 2, *Manual of Military Decorations and Awards: DoD Service Awards-Campaign, Expeditionary, and Service Medals*; AFMAN 36-2806, *Awards and Memorialization Program*. The Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal is awarded to members of the U.S. Armed Forces who, after 1 Jul 58, participated in U.S. military operations, U.S. operations in direct support of the United Nations, or U.S. operations of assistance for friendly foreign nations. The Joint Chiefs of Staff designates operations that qualify for the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, specifies the degree of participation required, and defines the area of operations.

Operation SOUTHERN WATCH for the period 1 Dec 95 to 18 Mar 03, and Operation DESERT FOX for the period 11 Nov 98 to 22 Dec 98, are approved military operations that have been approved for award of the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal.

DoDI 1336.01, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214/5 Series)*; Air Force Instruction (AFI) 36-3202, *Separation Documents*, Table 4, Rule 23. The DD Form 214 is used to record qualifying active duty service. Foreign Service locations are not an authorized entry on the DD Form 214. Foreign Service is annotated in increments of years, months, and days. In addition, the inclusion of operations on a Regular Air Force published DD Form 214 is prohibited unless it is attached to an expeditionary medal, and then if entitlement is confirmed, it can be

recorded in parentheses behind the respective medal, for example, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (SOUTHERN WATCH and DESERT FOX).

## **AIR FORCE EVALUATION**

AFPC/DP2SSR (DD Form 214 Policy and Procedures) recommends denying the applicant's request to correct her DD Form 214 to reflect combat zone information. There is no error or injustice with the DD Form 214 preparation. In accordance with AFI 36-3202, dated 20 May 94, Table 4. *How to Prepare DD Form 214*, which lists authorized entries on the DD Form 214, combat zones, hazard zones, financial information, assignments, deployments, and temporary duty assignments (TDY) are not included on the DD Form 214.

The DD Form 214 was designed as a brief snapshot of a service member's military career, and they are provided ample documentation from various agencies as verification in their military careers. If a service member requires specific confirmation of service in a combat zone, they may contact AFPC Personnel Readiness who may be able to provide the requested documentation. The amount of foreign service time annotated in Block 12f is determined by AFPC Assignment Policy.

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 1 Jun 23 for comment (Exhibit D) but has received no response.

## **ADDITIONAL AIR FORCE EVALUATION**

AFPC/DP2SSR (DD Form 214 Policy and Procedures) recommends denying the application and amends the previous advisory to include the following: Review of the Master Personnel Record shows the applicant was Regular Air Force from 8 Jan 97 to 7 Jan 01, assigned to [Air Force Base]; therefore, item 2 is correct as indicated. She was released from active duty and transferred to the Individual Ready Reserve to fulfill the remainder of the total Military Service Obligation (MSO) [8 years] that is required of every service member; therefore, items 6 and 9 are also correct as indicated.

The Individual Ready Reserve is an inactive reserve status where separated members remain at home but are subject to recall to active duty in the event of a national crisis. The record shows the applicant went through a recruiter to be a participant with the Air Force Reserve; however, active participation with the Air Force Reserve has no bearing on the DD Form 214 preparation as it is prepared based on remaining MSO in the IRR. There is also documentation showing the applicant was released from the IRR upon completion of the remainder of her MSO.

The complete advisory opinion is at Exhibit E.

## **APPLICANT'S REVIEW OF AMENDED AIR FORCE EVALUATION**

The Board sent a copy of the amended advisory opinion to the applicant on 1 Aug 23 for comment (Exhibit F) but has received no response.

## **FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION**

1. The application was not timely filed, but it is in the interest of justice to excuse the delay.

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 the victim of an error or injustice. While the Board notes the recommendation of AFPC/DP2SSR against correcting the record, the Board finds a preponderance of the evidence substantiates the applicant's contentions in part. Specifically, the applicant's DD Form 214 indicates she was awarded the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal and the Board determined the applicant's record supports she deployed in support of Operations SOUTHERN WATCH and DESERT FOX, which are approved operations for award of the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal. Therefore, according to AFI 36-3202, table 4, rule 23 the operational name associated with the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal should be listed immediately following the medal in Item 13 of the DD Form 214.

However, regarding the applicant's remaining requests, the Board concurs with the rationale and recommendation of AFPC/DP2SSR and finds a preponderance of the evidence does not substantiate the applicant's contentions. In this respect, the Board notes according to AFI 36-3202, deployments are not an authorized entry in item 18 of the DD Form 214. In addition, following the applicant's release from the Regular Air Force on 7 Jan 01, she was immediately transferred to the IRR to fulfill the remainder of her military service obligation. The IRR is an inactive reserve status where separated members remain at home but are subject to recall to active duty in the event of a national crisis. Subsequently, she was honorably discharged from the Air Force Reserve upon completion of her MSO. Therefore, items 2, 6, and 9 are correctly indicated. Accordingly, the Board recommends correcting the applicant's records as indicated below.

## RECOMMENDATION

The pertinent military records of the Department of the Air Force relating to APPLICANT be corrected to show DD Form 214, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*, issued in conjunction with her 7 Jan 01 discharge, item 13. *Decorations, Medal, Badges, Citations and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized*, be changed from Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal to Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (Operations SOUTHERN WATCH and DESERT FOX).

However, regarding the remainder of the applicant's request, the Board recommends informing the applicant the evidence did not demonstrate material error or injustice, and the application will only be reconsidered upon receipt of relevant evidence not already considered by the Board.

## 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-2021-01804 in Executive Session on 19 Oct 23:

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, Panel Chair

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Panel Member

, Panel Member

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

Exhibit A: Application, DD Form 149, w/atchs, dated 21 Apr 21.

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

Exhibit C: Advisory Opinion, AFPC/DP2SSR, dated 24 Jan 23.

Exhibit D: Notification of Advisory, SAF/MRBC to Applicant, dated 1 Jun 23.

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Exhibit E: Advisory Opinion, AFPC/DP2SSR, dated 1 Aug 23.

Exhibit F: Notification of Advisory, SAF/MRBC to Applicant, dated 1 Aug 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.

10/23/2023

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Board Operations Manager, AFBCMR

Signed by: DANZY.CATHERINE.M.1029660375

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