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UNITED STATES AIR FORCE BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2021-01930

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COUNSEL: NONE

HEARING REQUESTED: NO

APPLICANT'S REQUEST

His DD Form 214, *Certificate of Release or Discharge From Active Duty*, dated 21 May 18, Item 13, *Decorations, Medals, Badges, Citations and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized*, be corrected to reflect award of the following:

1. Combat Readiness Medal (**No Board Action**).
2. Remote Combat Effects Campaign Medal (RCECM).

APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS

He believes his active duty service time for the period of 12 Jan 16 through 12 Jan 18 is eligible for award of the Remote Combat Effects Campaign Medal (RCECM).

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit A.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The applicant is a former Air National Guard (ANG) senior airman (E-4) who entered the service on 7 Apr 14.

On 21 May 18, according to his DD Form 214, he was honorably released from active duty in support of "Counter Terrorism Airborne Analysis Analyst." Item 13 indicates he was awarded the Air Force Achievement Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster (OLC), Meritorious Unit Award with one (OLC), Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War of Terrorism Service Medal, Air Force Longevity Service, and the Air Force Training Ribbon.

On 6 Apr 22, according to NGB Form 22, *Report of Separation and Record of Service*, the applicant was honorably discharged from the ANG after serving eight years. The awards listed are Air Force Achievement Medal with one OLC, Meritorious Unit Award with one OLC, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with one OLC, Combat Readiness Medal, Air Reserve Forces Meritorious Service Medal with one OLC, National Defense Service Medal, Global War of Terrorism Service Medal, Air Force Longevity Service, Armed Forces Reserve Medal with one 'M' Device, and the Air Force Training Ribbon.

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

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AIR FORCE EVALUATION

AFPC/DP3SP recommends denying the applicant's request for award of the RCECM. Award of the medal was unable to be verified based on the applicant's personnel record and the documentation provided by the applicant. Specifically, AFPC/DP3SP was unable to verify whether the applicant personally provided hands-on employment of a weapon system that had direct and immediate impact on a named operation (hands-on defined as employment of a weapons system, including remote employment, or other activities that had a direct, immediate, and on-site effect on the outcome of an engagement or similar operation).

The Secretary of the Air Force approved establishment of the RCECM on 22 May 19 to recognize United States Air Force military members in a non-deployed status who directly participated in a Department of Defense (DoD) combat operation from a remote location. The medal is awarded to Air Force military members who, on or after 11 Sep 01, distinguished themselves by direct participation in a DoD combat operation, under the following conditions: (1) was assigned or attached to a unit directly supporting a DoD combat operation as approved by the CSAF (operation defined in Air For Manual (AFMAN) 36-2806, *Military Awards: Criteria and Procedures*, as a military action or the carrying out of a strategic, operational, tactical, service, training, or administrative military mission, and in the process of carrying on combat, including movement, supply, attack, defense, and maneuvers needed to gain the objectives of any battle or campaign), (2) was serving in a remotely piloted aircraft; cyber; space; or Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance career field, (3) personally provided hands-on employment of a weapon system that had direct and immediate impact on a named combat operation (hands-on defined as employment of a weapons system, including remote employment, or other activities that had a direct, immediate, and on-site effect on the outcome of an engagement or similar operation), and (4) was not physically exposed to hostile actions or at risk of exposure to hostile action. Initial qualifying DoD combat operations are listed below. The Chief of Staff of the Air Force designates future DoD combat operations that will qualify for the medal:

ENDURING FREEDOM from 11 Sep 01 – to be determined
IRAQI FREEDOM from 29 Mar 03 – 31 Aug 10
NEW DAWN from 1 Sep 10 – 21 Dec 11
NOMAD SHADOW from 5 Nov 07 – to be determined
FREEDOM'S SENTINEL from 1 Jan 15 – to be determined
INHERENT RESOLVE from 15 Jun 14 – to be determined
ODYSSEY LIGHTNING from 1 Aug 16 – 19 Dec 16
PACIFIC EAGLE PHILIPPINES from 5 Oct 17 – to be determined

Additionally, under no condition will an airman receive a RCECM and a DoD or Air Force campaign or expeditionary medal or ribbon for the same period of service.

Notwithstanding the above, award of the Combat Readiness Medal was verified and is already annotated on the applicant's NGB Form 22. No further correction is needed.

APPLICANT'S REVIEW OF AIR FORCE EVALUATION

The Board sent a copy of the advisory opinion to the applicant on 26 Apr 23 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 Board concurs with the rationale and recommendation of AFPC/DP3SP and finds a preponderance of the evidence does not substantiate the applicant's request to award the RCECM. The Board could not verify whether the applicant personally provided hands-on employment of a weapon system which had a direct and immediate impact on a named 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.

Notwithstanding the above, award of the Combat Readiness Medal was verified and is already annotated on the applicant's NGB Form 22. No further correction is needed.

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-2021-01930 in Executive Session on 5 Dec 23:

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 9 May 22.

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

Exhibit C: Advisory Opinion, AFPC/DP3SP, dated 29 Dec 22.

Exhibit D: Notification of Advisory, SAF/MRBC to Applicant, dated 26 Apr 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.

6/13/2025



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Board Operations Manager, AFBCMR
Signed by: USAF

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