

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2021-02077

XXXXXXXXXXXXXX

COUNSEL: NONE

HEARING REQUESTED: NO

APPLICANT'S REQUEST

Her DD Form 214, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*, be amended to reflect the Remote Combat Effects Campaign Medal, with one Bronze Service Star.

APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS

She has provided documentation that shows she earned two Remote Combat Effects Campaign Medals during her tour. This is a new medal that is retroactive and applies to when the campaign she supported started. Her support for eligibility had to be verified/confirmed before the AF Form 104, *Service Medal Award Verification*, could be signed and approved.

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit A.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The applicant is an honorably discharged Air Force senior airman (E-4).

On 31 Dec 04, the applicant was furnished an honorable discharge, and credited with 6 years, 7 months, and 4 days active service. Item 13, *Decorations, Medals, Badges, Citations and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized*, reflects: Air Force Training Ribbon; NCO Professional Military Education Graduate Ribbon; Air Force Longevity Service Award Ribbon, with one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster; Air Force Overseas Long Tour Ribbon; National Defense Service Medal; Air Force Good Conduct Medal, with one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster; Air Force Outstanding Unit Award; Joint Meritorious Unit Award; Joint Service Achievement Medal.

According to AF Form 104, dated 4 Nov 20, provided by the applicant, she was awarded the Remote Combat Effects Campaign Medal for service during Operation ENDURING FREEDOM for the period 7 Oct 01 to 31 Dec 04, and for service during Operation IRAQI FREEDOM for the period 20 Mar 03 to 31 Dec 04.

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 applicant's official military personnel record and provided documentation, award of the Remote Combat Effects Campaign Medal could not be verified.

The Secretary of the Air Force approved establishment of the Remote Combat Effects Campaign Medal on 22 May 19, to recognize 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 Chief of Staff of the Air Force (operation defined in AFMAN 36-2806, *Awards and Memorialization Program*); (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.

The Chief of Staff of the Air Force designates future DoD combat operations that will qualify for the medal. Initial qualifying DoD combat operations are listed below:

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

Under no condition will an Airman receive a Remote Combat Effects Campaign Medal and a DoD or Air Force campaign or expeditionary medal or ribbon for the same period of service. This medal is not interchangeable with other DoD or Air Force campaign or expeditionary medals or ribbons.

Excluded from eligibility are foreign military personnel, Airmen in initial accession training, and Airman physically located in the geographical areas of eligibility for the DoD combat operations listed in the above table.

The applicant did not meet all the established criteria for award of the Remote Combat Effects Campaign Medal. Specifically, they are unable to verify the applicant, “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).”

The applicant’s active duty service was from 27 May 98 to 31 Dec 04. She provided a copy of AF Form 104 awarding the Remote Combat Effects Campaign Medal, dated 4 Nov 20, 16 years after her release from active duty. To grant relief would be contrary to the criteria established by the Secretary of the Air Force memorandum dated 22 May 19.

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

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

1. The application was 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 contends she is authorized the Remote Combat Effects Campaign Medal, with one Bronze Service Star and in support of her request she provided what appears to be an authentic AF Form 104 dated 16 years after her release from active duty. However, it was not filed as part of her official military personnel record. In addition, following a review of the applicant's Enlisted Performance Reports, there is no evidence she personally provided hands-on employment of a weapons systems that had direct and immediate impact on a named operation. 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. Accordingly, 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 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-2021-02077 in Executive Session on 19 Oct 23:

, Panel Chair
, Panel Member
, Panel Member

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

Exhibit A: Application, DD Form 149, w/atch, dated 11 May 21.
Exhibit B: Documentary evidence, including relevant excerpts from official records.
Exhibit C: Advisory Opinion, AFPC/DP3SP, dated 26 Jan 23.
Exhibit D: Notification of Advisory, SAF/MRBC to Applicant, dated 23 May 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.

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Board Operations Manager, AFBCMR