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UNITED STATES AIR FORCE BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2021-02403

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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 corrected to reflect award of the:

- a. Air Force Organizational Excellence Award (AFOEA).
- b. Kosovo Campaign Medal.
- c. Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon (SAEMR), with device.

APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS

Several medals/ribbons or devices earned during active military service are not reflected on his DD Form 214. The DD Form 214 may reflect more devices than what is reflected on the virtual Military Personnel Flight (vMPF) Awards and Decorations Information sheet he provided because the DD Form 214 was accomplished in December 2005, and the vMPF Information sheet was printed in April 2005. For example, the vMPF sheet reflects the Meritorious Service Medal (MSM) with four devices, but the DD Form 214 indicates five devices as he was awarded an additional MSM at his retirement ceremony.

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit A.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The applicant is a retired Air Force chief master sergeant (E-9).

According to Decorations and Awards document, dated 21 March 1997, provided by the applicant, he was awarded the SAEMR with one device.

According to vMPF Awards and Decoration Information, dated 4 April 2005, provided by the applicant, he was awarded the AFOEA, the Kosovo Campaign Medal, and the SAEMR (Rifle).

On 31 December 2005, the applicant was furnished an honorable discharge, with Narrative Reason for Separation: Sufficient Service for Retirement, and credited with 24 years, 1 month, and 6 days of active duty service.

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 (Recognition Program) recommends denying the application. Based on documentation presented and review of the official record, there is no error/injustice as the applicant does not meet the established criteria for award of the AFOEA, Kosovo Campaign Medal, and SAEMR with Bronze Service Star.

In accordance with Air Force Manual (AFMAN) 36-2806, *Awards and Memorialization Program*, dated 10 June 2019, paragraph A10.5. states the AFOEA was established by Secretary of the Air Force (SecAF) in August 1969, to recognize the achievements and accomplishments of Air Force organizations or activities. The AFOEA is awarded to Air Force internal organizations that are entities within larger organizations. The organizations are unique, unnumbered organizations or activities that perform functions normally performed by numbered wings, groups, squadrons, etc. The following types of organizations are eligible for consideration: unnumbered organizations, such as major command headquarters, field operating agencies, direct reporting units, centers, and any other unnumbered organization; office of SecAF and Chief of Staff of the Air Force, Headquarters Air Force (HAF) Secretariat and Assistant Chief of Staff offices; each Air Force level school, academy college, and Air Force Reserve Officers Training Corps detachments; and similar U.S. Armed Forces services organizations or activities (except DoD joint activities). Detachments, operating locations, training sites, or Air Force elements are often included in the parent unit's award; however, they may be considered on their own merit or identified by the parent unit to share in the award, but not both.

Per paragraph A14.6, the Kosovo Campaign Medal was established by Executive Order 13154 on 3 May 2000, to recognize qualifying Service members for service in Kosovo during the period of 24 March 1999 to 31 December 2013. Members authorized the medal must have participated in or served in direct support of Kosovo operations within the Kosovo Air Campaign or the Kosovo Defense Campaign areas of eligibility. The medal is awarded to members who, during the period of the award, were permanently assigned, attached, or detailed to a unit that participated in or was engaged in direct support of designated operations for 30 consecutive days or 60 non-consecutive days in the area of eligibility, or who meets one of the following criteria, regardless of time spent in the area of eligibility: 1) Was engaged in actual combat, or duty that is equally hazardous as combat duty, with armed opposition; 2) While participating in a designated operation was killed, or was wounded or injured and medically evacuated from the area of eligibility; or 3) Members participating as regularly assigned aircrew members accrue one day of eligibility for each day they fly into, out of, within, or over the area of eligibility in direct support of the military operations.

Per paragraph A14.33, the SAEMR was established by SecAF on 28 August 1962 and made effective on 1 January 1963. The ribbon is awarded to Regular Air Force, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve members, who, after 1 January 1963, qualify as "Expert" with either the M-16 rifle (to include the M-4 and GAU-5) or an issued handgun on the Air Force qualification course, an appropriate orientation course prescribed in other Air Force Instructions, other Military Services' qualification course, or who satisfactorily complete the Combat Rifle Program. Members who, after 22 June 1972, qualify as "Expert" with both the M-16 rifle (or M-4 or GAU-5) and an issued handgun, wear a bronze service star on the ribbon. The AF Form 522, *Ground Weapons Training Data and USAF Firearms Qualification*, or a letter from the small arms marksmanship monitor is used as the source documentation for this award. Members who qualify as "Expert" provides a copy of the AF Form 522 or letter to the manpower and personnel flight for update in the member's personnel records.

Although the applicant served in support of Operation ALLIED FORCE, Germany is not an authorized area of responsibility for award of the Kosovo Campaign Medal. Additionally, there is no documentation to indicate he was assigned or attached to a unit awarded the AFOEA. Finally, there were no documents provided or in the applicant's military personnel record that qualified him as "Expert" with both the M-16 rifle and an issued handgun, to wear a Bronze Service Star on the SAEMR.

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 21 June 2023 for comment (Exhibit D) but has received no response.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

1. The application was not timely filed. The Board 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)*. 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.
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 contentions. The applicant's eligibility for award of the AFOEA, Kosovo Campaign Medal, and SAEMR, with one device, could not be verified in accordance with AFMAN 36-2806. Therefore, 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 DAFI 36-2603, paragraph 2.1, considered Docket Number BC-2021-02403 in Executive Session on 25 January 2024:

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 13 July 2021.

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

Exhibit C: Advisory Opinion, AFPC/DP3SP, dated 22 February 2023.

Exhibit D: Notification of Advisory, SAF/MRBC to Applicant, dated 21 June 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.

4/15/2025

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