

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2021-02448

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

COUNSEL: NONE

HEARING REQUESTED: NO

APPLICANT'S REQUEST

Correct his DD Form 214, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*, to reflect the following awards:

a. Air Force Commendation Medal, with third Oak Leaf Cluster. **(Pending administrative correction)**

b. Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal, with Bronze Service Star.

APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS

His Air Force Commendation Medal dated 15 Jun 20 should show a third oak leaf cluster. Item 23 on his virtual Military Personnel Flight (vMPF) printout, dated 29 Jan 20, should annotate his Operation INHERENT RESOLVE award, with service star. It shows as an unknown medal in vMPF because it was not recognized by the vMPF system upon entry, and it is not showing on his DD Form 214. This should be corrected so the accomplishments of his distinguished career for this country may reflect credit upon him and the United States Air Force.

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit A.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The applicant is a retired Air Force technical sergeant (E-6).

According to AF Form 910, *Enlisted Performance Report (AB thru TSgt)*, for the period 1 Dec 14 to 30 Nov 15, the applicant, "airlifted 8K lbs ISO Op INHERENT [RESOLVE]."

According to AF Form 910, for the period 1 Dec 15 to 30 Nov 16, the applicant, "[provided] vital warfighter sustainment ISO OIR/OFS."

According to Air Force Commendation Medal, first Oak Leaf Cluster, dated 16 Aug 17, the applicant, "transported 91,000 pounds of cargo in support of Operation INHERENT RESOLVE..."

On 15 Jun 20, according to Special Order XXXXX, the applicant was awarded the Air Force Commendation Medal, third Oak Leaf Cluster.

On 31 May 20, the applicant was furnished an honorable discharge, with Narrative Reason for Separation: Sufficient Service for Retirement, and was credited with 20 years and 1 day of active service including 3 years, 8 months, and 8 days of Foreign Service. Item 13, *Decorations, Medals, Badges, Citations and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized*, reflects: Air Medal, with two Oak Leaf Clusters; Air Force Commendation Medal, with two Oak Leaf Clusters; Army Commendation Medal; Air Force Achievement Medal; Meritorious Unit Award, with two Oak Leaf Clusters; Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, with Valor Device, with seven Oak Leaf Clusters; Combat Readiness Medal; Air Force Good Conduct Medal, with five Oak Leaf Clusters; National Defense Service Medal; Afghanistan Campaign Medal, with one Service Star; Iraq Campaign Medal, with one Service Star; Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal; Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; Korean Defense Service Medal; Nuclear Deterrence Operations Service Medal, with one Oak Leaf Cluster; Air Force Overseas Ribbon Short Tour, with one Oak Leaf Cluster; Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon, with Gold Border, with seven Oak Leaf Clusters; Air Force Longevity Service Award, with four Oak Leaf Clusters; USAF NCO PME Graduate Ribbon, with one Oak Leaf Cluster; Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon, with one Service Star; Air Force Training Ribbon; NATO Medal.

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 applicant's request for award of the Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal, with one Bronze Service Star. In accordance with Air Force Manual (AFMAN) 36-2806, *Awards and Memorialization Program*, paragraph A14.9., the Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal was established by Executive Order 13723, to recognize service members who serve or have served honorably in Iraq, Syria or contiguous waters or airspace on or after 15 Jun 14. The medal is awarded to members who, during the period of the award, were permanently assigned, attached, or detailed for 30 days (consecutive or non-consecutive) 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; or 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.

Members awarded the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal for Operation INHERENT RESOLVE service in an area for which the Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal was authorized subsequently remain qualified for that medal. Such members, upon application, may be awarded the Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal in lieu of that Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal. This election is irrevocable. Under no condition will personnel or units receive the Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, or Afghanistan Campaign Medal for the same action, time, or period of service.

Although the applicant's support of Operation INHERENT RESOLVE was verified, there was no official documentation in the military personnel record or provided to verify he entered the area of eligibility of Iraq, Syria, or contiguous waters, rendering him eligible for award of the Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal, with one Bronze Service Star. To grant relief would be contrary to the criteria established by AFMAN 36-2806.

Notwithstanding, award of the Air Force Commendation Medal, with three Bronze Oak Leaf Clusters is verified and will be administratively corrected.

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 26 Apr 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 believes he is eligible for the Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal, with Bronze Service Star; however, there is no official documentation that verifies he met the eligibility criteria for the medal in accordance with AFMAN 36-2806. Accordingly, 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. Therefore, except for the aforementioned administrative correction, 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-2021-02448 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/atchs, dated 30 Jun 21.
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.

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.

X

Board Operations Manager, AFBCMR