

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2021-03033

XXXXXXXXXXXX

COUNSEL: NONE

HEARING REQUESTED: NO

APPLICANT'S REQUEST

His official military personnel record be corrected to reflect award of the Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon.

APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS

He shot and scored hits on over 95 percent of his shots. In 1977, President Jimmy Carter limited the Air Force Basic Trainees to shoot only 60 rounds instead of 100 rounds with the M-16. He hit the target 59 out of 60 rounds. He did not have to fire pistols to qualify. He never knew he was eligible until he mentioned it to another servicemember on 10 Mar 19.

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit A.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

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

According to AF Form 522, *Small Arms Marksmanship Training Data*, provided by the applicant, he scored 59 of 60 rounds fired with the M-16 rifle.

On 31 Jul 81, the applicant was furnished an honorable discharge, and credited with 3 years and 11 months active service.

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 recommends granting the application. After a thorough review of the applicant's official military personnel record and provided documentation, to possibly provide administrative relief, award of the SAEMR could not be verified.

In accordance with Air Force Manual (AFMAN) 36-2806, *Awards and Memorialization Program*, 10 Jun 19:

A14.33. *Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon*. The ribbon was established by SECAF on 28 August 1962 and made effective on 1 January 1963.

A14.33.1. *Eligibility*. 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.

A14.33.2. 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.

A14.33.3. 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.

The applicant provided an AF Form 522, but the date is illegible, and no documentation was located within his official military personnel record; however, based on the documentation provided by the applicant, which appears to be authentic, recommend approval for award of 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 23 May 23 for comment (Exhibit D) 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. The Board concurs with the rationale and recommendation of AFPC/DP3SP and finds a preponderance of the evidence substantiates the applicant’s contentions. The AF Form 522 provided by the applicant appears to be authentic and qualifies him for award of the Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon in accordance with AFMAN 36-2806. Therefore, 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 his DD Form 214, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*, issued in conjunction with his 31 July 1981 discharge, Block 13, Decorations, *Medals, Badges, Citations, and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized*, be amended to include the Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon.

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-2021-03033 in Executive Session on 25 Oct 23:

, Panel Chair
, Panel Member
, Panel Member

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

Exhibit A: Application, DD Form 149, w/atch, dated 5 Sep 21.

Exhibit B: Documentary evidence, including relevant excerpts from official records.
Exhibit C: Advisory opinion, AFPC/DP3SP, dated 27 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.

X

Board Operations Manager, AFBCMR