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**UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS**

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

**DOCKET NUMBER:** BC-2021-03073

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**COUNSEL:** NONE

**HEARING REQUESTED:** NOT INDICATED

**APPLICANT’S REQUEST**

His DD Form 214, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*, effective 18 September 2002, Item 13, *Decorations, Medals, Badges, Citations and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized*, be amended to reflect award of the Afghanistan Campaign Medal.

**APPLICANT’S CONTENTIONS**

He was assigned or attached to a unit participating in Operation ENDURING FREEDOM for at least 30 consecutive days between February 2002 and May 2002. He believes he deserves to be recognized for his service. He does not have a copy of the orders.

The applicant’s complete submission is at Exhibit A.

**STATEMENT OF FACTS**

The applicant is a former Air Force airman first class (E-3).

On 4 November 1999, according to DD Form 4, *Enlistment/Reenlistment Document – Armed Forces of the United States*, the applicant enlisted in the Regular Air Force for a period of 6 years in the rank of airman basic (E-1).

On 18 September 2002, according to DD Form 214, the applicant was honorably discharged and credited with 2 years, 10 months, and 15 days of active service including 3 months and 16 days of Foreign Service. Item 13, reflects: Air Force Training Ribbon; National Defense Service Medal; Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, with one Oak Leaf Cluster .

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

**APPLICABLE AUTHORITY/GUIDANCE**

Department of the Air Force Instruction (DAFI) 36-2603, *Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records*, paragraph 3.4.4, states applicants have the burden of proof for providing evidence in support of their claim that they are the victim of an error or injustice.

**AIR FORCE EVALUATION**

AFPC/DP3SP (Recognition Program) recommends denying the application. In accordance with Air Force Manual (AFMAN) 36-2806, *Awards and Memorialization Program*, the Afghanistan

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Campaign Medal was established to recognize service members who serve or have served in the country of Afghanistan in support of the War on Terrorism operations. The period of eligibility for the medal is 11 September 2001 to a future date to be determined, and the area of eligibility encompasses all land and air space of the country of Afghanistan. The medal is awarded to members who, during the period of the award, were permanently assigned, attached, or detailed for 30 consecutive days or 60 non-consecutive days 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 who received the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal by reasons of service between 11 September 2001 and 30 April 2005, in an area for which the Afghanistan Campaign Medal was subsequently authorized, remain eligible for the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal or may exchange the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal for the Afghanistan Campaign Medal. Under no condition will personnel or units receive the Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, or the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal for the same action, time, or period of service. Airmen who forward deploy to units within the area of eligibility may be considered for additional campaign awards on a case-by-case basis providing the member meets the minimum award criteria.

After a thorough review of the applicant's limited official military personnel record and provided documentation to possibly provide administrative relief, they are unable to verify award of the Afghanistan Campaign Medal. To grant relief would be contrary to the criteria established by AFMAN 36-2806.

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 8 May 2023 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 contentions. 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 DAFI 36-2603. 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. 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.
4. The applicant has not shown a personal appearance, with or without counsel, would materially add to the Board's understanding of the issues involved.

**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 DAFI 36-2603, paragraph 2.1, considered Docket Number BC-2021-03073 in Executive Session on 21 September 2023:

- 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 19 August 2021.
- Exhibit B: Documentary evidence, including relevant excerpts from official records.
- Exhibit C: Advisory Opinion, AFPC/DP3SP, dated 27 January 2023
- Exhibit D: Notification of Advisory, SAF/MRBC to Applicant, dated 8 May 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.

11/2/2023

X

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Board Operations Manager, AFBCMR  
Signed by: Work-Product