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UNITED STATES AIR FORCE BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2021-03479

Work-Product

COUNSEL: NONE

HEARING REQUESTED: NO

APPLICANT'S REQUEST

He be awarded the Air Medal (AM).

APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS

In Feb 91, he was deployed for combat operations in support of Operation DESERT STORM. On 25 and 26 Feb 91, he flew a B-52 combat mission from Diego Garcia to Iraq and accomplished the combat sortie. He and his five aircrew members were recommended for the AM; however, he has no record the recommendation was ever reviewed by Air Forces Central (AFCENT) Command. He requests the Board approve the AM.

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit A.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The applicant is a retired Air Force colonel (O-6).

The applicant provides a contingency expeditionary deployment (CED) order dated 1 Feb 91, which lists his name for deployment on or about 17 Feb 91. The purpose is listed as special mission travel in support of Operation DESERT STORM.

The applicant provides an undated recommendation for award of the AM signed by the Provisional Bombardment Wing Commander. It stated the listed B-52 aircrew members completed the number of bomber combat strike missions in support of Operation DESERT STORM. Hostilities ended before meeting the minimum combat stories required but they were recommended for award of the AM for sustained operational activities.

The applicant provides a military pay order for hostile fire pay certification, which shows on 25 Feb 91 at 0100 hours, he flew combat sorties in support of Operation DESERT STORM.

He provides his paid travel voucher, which shows he deployed to Anderson AB, Guam and Diego Garcia. The period of the temporary duty (TDY) shows 3 Feb 91 to 14 May 91.

The applicant's military human resources record (MHRR) includes a disapproved citation for award of the AM. The date of disapproval in pen and ink shows as 28 Feb 91.

The applicant's officer performance report (OPR) for the reporting period 5 Jun 90 to 4 Jun 91 states he was a member of the first B-52 crew to fly in combat during Operation DESERT STORM.

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Controlled by: SAF/MRB

CUI Categories: Work-Product

Limited Dissemination Control: N/A

POC: SAF.MRBC.Workflow@us.af.mil

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 denial. In accordance with AFMAN 36-2806, *Awards and Memorialization Program*, paragraph A2.12, the AM is awarded to any person who while serving in any capacity with the Air Force distinguishes himself by meritorious achievement while participating in an aerial flight. Eligibility criteria includes that the AM may be awarded for combat or non-combat action in recognition of single acts of valor, heroism or merit while participating in an aerial flight. Both heroism and achievement are entirely distinctive, involving operations that are not routine. The medal is not awarded for sustained operational activities and flights. The required achievement to warrant award of the AM is less than that required for the Distinguished Flying Cross and is accomplished with distinction above and beyond that expected of professional airmen.

Based on a review of the applicant's official military personnel record and documentation provided, award of the AM is unable to be verified. The applicant's records include a disapproved AM citation for aerial flight near Iraq and Kuwait. However, there are no inclusive dates annotated on the citation. The applicant's records also include a disapproved Air Force Commendation Medal citation for outstanding achievement, Diego Garcia, from 3 Feb 91 to 14 May 91. To grant relief would be contrary to the criteria established in 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 10 May 23 for comment (Exhibit D). In a response dated 27 May 24, he states it took numerous attempts to finally open and decrypt the advisory opinion. He appeals the advisory opinion. The recommendation of two Air Force senior leaders should be weighed significantly versus an interpretation of AFMAN 36-2806 by a GS-12. The two leaders were in critical leadership roles in wartime at an austere location and oversaw numerous B-52 bomber aircrews. Secondly, he asks why an AFMAN dated 10 Jun 19 is being used to evaluate and assess what he accomplished 30 years earlier. Third, his combat mission on 25 Feb 91 to 26 Feb 91 was a meritorious achievement. The original mission was planned for a flight of three B-52 aircraft but only two were available. The ability to defend the flight was thus reduced by 33 percent. Lastly, his personal account of the mission was provided in the Dec 21 "Big, Ugly, Fat Fellow" (BUFF) Bulletin.

The applicant's complete submission, with attachments, is at Exhibit E.

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 applicant contends the recommendation for award of the AM was not reviewed by AFCENT and requests the Board approve award of the AM. However, the applicant's record includes documentation to

show award of the AM was disapproved and the applicant has provided no evidence to the contrary. While the Board recognizes the applicant's accomplishments in support of Operation DESERT STORM, he has not sustained his burden of proof to warrant award of the AM. Therefore, the Board recommends against correcting the applicant's records. 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 Department of the Air Force Instruction (DAFI) 36-2603, *Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records (AFBCMR)*. The Board does not find it in the interest of justice to waive the three-year filing requirement.

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-2021-03479 in Executive Session on 6 Jul 23 and 27 Jun 24:

Work-Product	Chair, AFBCMR
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 9 Oct 21.
- Exhibit B: Documentary evidence, including relevant excerpts from official records.
- Exhibit C: Advisory Opinion, AFPC/DP3SP, w/atchs, dated 1 Feb 23.
- Exhibit D: Notification of Advisory, SAF/MRBC to Applicant, dated 10 May 23.
- Exhibit E: Applicant's Response, w/atchs, dated 27 May 24.

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.

2/4/2025

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Board Operations Manager, AFBCMR

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