



CUI//SP-MIL/SP-PRVCY
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

Work-Product

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2021-03591

COUNSEL: NONE

HEARING REQUESTED: NO

APPLICANT’S REQUEST

His DD Form 214, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*, be updated to reflect the Defense Superior Service Medal (DSSM).

APPLICANT’S CONTENTIONS

On 30 Sep 20, the applicant retired from active service and was awarded the DSSM. However, the medal was not updated on his DD Form 214. He provided the signed citation, the narrative to accompany the citation, and the orders as evidence, and is requesting the medal be updated on his DD Form 214.

The applicant’s complete submission is at Exhibit A.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

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

On 30 Sep 20, according to the applicant’s DD Form 214, the applicant retired after twenty-nine years, nine months, and five days of active service.

On 5 Oct 20, the DSSM certificate, provided by the applicant, was certified by the Secretary of Defense.

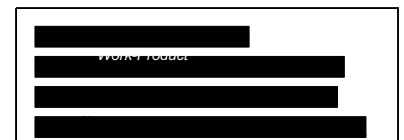
On 13 Oct 20, according to Military Personnel Awards Order Number 20-239, provided by the applicant, he was awarded the DSSM for service performed from Dec 10 to Sep 20.

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

APPLICABLE AUTHORITY/GUIDANCE

IAW DoD Manual 1348.33-V4, December 21, 2016, Change 4, May 7, 2021.
3.2 Defense Superior Service Medal.

a. Introduction. The DSSM, established by E.O. 11904, is the second highest precedence DoD Joint PMD.



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b. Award Category. DoD Joint PMD.

c. Award Criteria and Eligibility Requirements.

(1) The DSSM, in accordance with E.O. 11904, may be awarded by the Secretary of Defense to any Service member who has rendered superior meritorious service in a position of significant responsibility with the OSD, the Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, a specified or unified command, a Defense agency, or such other JDA as may be designated by the Secretary of Defense.

(2) In accordance with the guidance in the July 1, 2003 Director, Administration and Management Memorandum, subsequent to the guidance in the June 3, 2003 Secretary of Defense Memorandum, the nominee's contributions must be at the highest level and reflect superior meritorious service in a position of significant responsibility.

(3) Refer to Paragraphs 1.2.b. through 1.2.g. for requirements and restrictions regarding award of DoD Joint PMDs.

(4) The DSSM may be awarded with the "C" device to recognize exceptionally meritorious service or achievement performed under combat conditions on or after January 7, 2016. The award narrative must clearly show that the nominee was personally exposed to hostile action or under significant risk of hostile action:

(a) While engaged in action against an enemy of the United States;

(b) While engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force; or

(c) While serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party.

(5) The DSSM for specific achievement may be awarded with the "R" device to distinguish that the award was earned for the direct hands-on employment of a weapon system or other warfighting activities that had a direct and immediate impact on a combat operation or other military operation (i.e., outcome of an engagement or specific effects on a target), including Title 10, U.S.C., support of non-Title 10 operations, and operations authorized by an approved execute order. To be designated as such, the action must have been performed through any domain, in circumstances that did not expose the individual to hostile action, or place him or her at significant risk of exposure to hostile action, on or after January 7, 2016, under one of the following conditions:

(a) While engaged in military operations against an enemy of the United States;

(b) While engaged in military operations involving conflict against an opposing foreign force; or

(c) While serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in military operations with an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party.

(6) The DSSM is the DoD Joint PMD equivalent of the Legion of Merit and should be awarded accordingly.

(7) The DSSM is intended to recognize superior meritorious service and to honor an individual's accomplishments over a sustained period. It is normally awarded for a period of time greater than 12 months, encompassing the nominee's entire joint assignment, including any extensions. Only under the most unusual circumstances will the DSSM be awarded as an impact award for outstanding achievement.

AIR FORCE EVALUATION

AFPC/DP3SP, recommends granting the application. The applicant requested to have the DSSM added to his personnel record and DD Form 214. The applicant provided a citation, certificate, and Military Personnel Awards Order Number 20-239, dated 13 Oct 20, for award of the DSSM; however, the documents were not found in his official record and administrative relief could not be provided. Based on documentation provided by the applicant and analysis of the facts, there is evidence of an error or injustice on the part of the Air Force.

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 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 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 Board found the applicant met the eligibility criteria and provided a copy of the DSSM with Military Personnel Awards Order Number 20-239, which the Board finds is sufficient evidence to update his records and his DD Form 214 with award of the DSSM. 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 that:

- a) He was awarded the Defense Superior Service Medal for Superior Meritorious Service from December 2010 through September 2020.
- b) His DD Form 214, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*, with inclusive dates 26 December 1990 through 30 September 2020, in Items 13, *Decoration, Medals, Badges, Citations, and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized*, be amended to reflect award of the Defense Superior Service Medal.

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-2021-03591 in Executive Session on 20 Dec 23:

<i>Work-Product</i>	Panel Chair
<i>Work-Product</i>	Panel Member
<i>Work-Product</i>	Panel Member

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

- Exhibit A: Application, DD Form 149, w/atchs, dated 19 Oct 21.
- Exhibit B: Documentary evidence, including relevant excerpts from official records.
- Exhibit C: Advisory opinion, AFPC/DP3SP, dated 7 Feb 23.
- Exhibit D: Notification of advisory, SAF/MRBC to applicant, dated 21 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.

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