

## RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

**DOCKET NUMBER:** BC-2021-03778

XXXXXXXXXXXX

**COUNSEL:** NONE

**HEARING REQUESTED:** NO

### APPLICANT'S REQUEST

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

- a. Cold War Recognition Certificate (**Not within the Board's authority**)
- b. National Defense Service Medal (**Already reflected on DD Form 214; correction not required**)
- c. Combat Readiness Medal
- d. Joint Service Achievement Medal
- e. Humanitarian Service Medal
- f. Nuclear Deterrence Operations Service Medal

### APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS

Since the time that she departed service, there have been medals/awards authorized for individuals that served during the time that she served. She is requesting this correction so she may wear or display the medals, which she cannot do without them being listed on her DD Form 214 as something earned.

The reason for the delay in her request is she just learned from a former veteran that she does qualify for medals because he attained them for himself. She was unaware there were medals that were approved after she left service for her time in service. She does not have supporting documents, only the information on her DD Form 214 with her service dates. She was stationed at Ellsworth Air Force Base from Jan 88 – summer 89, then stationed at Incirlik Air Base, Turkey from summer 89 – Dec 91. She was a Security Police/Security Specialist.

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit A.

### STATEMENT OF FACTS

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

On 6 Dec 91, according to DD Form 214, the applicant was furnished an honorable discharge, and credited with 4 years, 3 months, and 27 days active service. Item 13, *Decorations, Medals, Badges, Citations and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized*, reflects: Air Force Good Conduct Medal; NCO PME Graduate Ribbon; Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon, with one device; **National Defense Service Medal**; Air Force Training Ribbon, Air Force Longevity Service Award; Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, with two Oak Leaf Clusters; Air Force Overseas Short Tour Ribbon; Southeast Asia Service Medal, with one device; Air Force Achievement 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 application. In accordance with Department of Defense Manual (DoDM)1348.33 Volume 4, *Manual of Military Decorations and Awards: DoD Joint Decorations and Awards*, dated 21 Dec 16, the Joint Service Achievement Medal is awarded in the name of the Secretary of Defense to members of the U.S. Armed Forces below the grade of O-6 who, while assigned to a Joint Duty Assignment after 3 Aug 83, distinguished themselves by outstanding performance of duty, meritorious achievement, or service.

Air Force Manual 36-2806 (AFMAN), *Awards and Memorialization Program*, dated 10 Jun 19, paragraph A14.18. The Combat Readiness Medal was authorized by the Secretary of the Air Force on 9 Mar 64. The medal is awarded to regular Air Force, Air National Guard, Air Force Reserve, and members of the other Military Services, after 1 Aug 60, for sustained individual combat mission readiness or preparedness for direct weapon-system employment. On or before 17 Apr 18, members must meet all of the following criteria: Be a member of a unit subject to combat readiness reporting; Be individually certified as combat and/or mission ready and has been subject to a continuous individual positional evaluation program, according to a MAJCOM or higher headquarters standards; and Complete 24 months of sustained combat and or mission readiness with no more than a 120 calendar-day break. If the break in combat or mission ready status exceeds 120 calendar days due to reassignment to another combat or mission duty that requires upgrading in or retraining to a new system, only the enroute and retraining time is deducted from qualifying service.

Paragraph A14.14. The Humanitarian Service Medal was established by Executive Order 11965, to recognize members who, after 1 Apr 75, distinguished themselves by meritorious direct participation in a DoD-approved significant military act or operation of a humanitarian nature.

Paragraph A14.24. The Nuclear Deterrence Operations Service Medal was established by the Secretary of the Air Force on 27 May 14 to recognize Airmen who directly supported nuclear deterrence operations on or after 27 Dec 91.

Paragraph 3.44. Public Law 105–85, Section 1084, established a Cold War Recognition Certificate to recognize all members of the U.S. Armed Forces and qualified Federal Government civilian personnel who faithfully and honorably served the U.S. during the Cold War Era, from 2 Sep 45 to 26 Dec 91.

The Department of the Army is the office of responsibility for the Cold War Certificate. The applicant may order a certificate online at: <https://www.hrc.army.mil/content/903>. They may also

write to the following address:

Commander, USAHRC  
Cold War Recognition Program  
ATTN: AHRC-PDP-A, Dept 480  
1600 Spearhead Division Avenue  
Fort Knox, KY 40122-5408

After a thorough review of the applicant's official military personnel record and provided documentation, award of the National Defense Service Medal was verified; however, no documentation has been provided to verify award of the Joint Service Achievement Medal, Combat Readiness Medal, or the Humanitarian Service Medal. In addition, the applicant's active service dates, from 10 Aug 87 – 6 Dec 91, were prior to the authorized award period for the

Nuclear Deterrence Operations Service Medal. To grant relief would be contrary to the criteria established by DoDM 1348.33 and 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 21 Mar 23 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 applicant does not meet established eligibility criteria for award of the Combat Readiness Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, or Nuclear Deterrence Operations Service Medal in accordance with DoD Manual 1348.33 and AFMAN 36-2806. In addition, the Cold War Recognition Certificate, recognizes members of the Armed Forces and civilian personnel of the United States government who served the United States during the Cold War. This endeavor is conducted by the Department of the Army and is not within the Board's authority. However, the applicant may order a certificate online at: <https://www.hrc.army.mil/content/903>. A correction for the applicant's request to add the National Defense Service Medal to her DD Form 214 is not required as it is already annotated on the applicant's DD Form 214. 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. Therefore, the Board finds the application untimely and recommends against correcting the applicant's records.

### **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-2021-03778 in Executive Session on 6 Jul 23:

- , Chair, AFBCMR
- , Panel Member
- , Panel Member

All members voted against correcting the record. The panel considered the following:

- Exhibit A: Application, DD Form 149, dated 6 Dec 21.
- Exhibit B: Documentary evidence, including relevant excerpts from official records.

Exhibit C: Advisory Opinion, AFPC/DP3SP, dated 9 Feb 23.

Exhibit D: Notification of Advisory, SAF/MRBC to Applicant, dated 21 Mar 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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Board Operations Manager, AFBCMR