

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

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2022-00220

COUNSEL:

HEARING REQUESTED:

APPLICANT'S REQUEST

Her DD Form 214, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*, dated 22 Jul 88, amended to reflect the following:

- a. Her current legal name.
- b. Her current social security number (SSN).

APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS

She is in the Witness Protection Program and had to legally change her name and SSN as it was a matter of life or death.

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit A.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The applicant is a former Air Force airman basic (E-1).

The applicant served in the Air Force from 16 Mar 87 to 22 Jul 88, under the name [REDACTED].

On 9 Oct 03, the applicant obtained a court order to change her name to [REDACTED].

On 12 Aug 09, the applicant was issued a certified birth certificate, which indicates a different name from the name on the applicant's DD Form 214.

On 24 Jun 16, the Social Security Administration (SSA) issued the applicant a document, which indicates a different SSN from the SSN on the applicant's DD Form 214.

For more information, see the excerpt of the applicant's record at Exhibit B.

APPLICABLE AUTHORITY/GUIDANCE

Air Force policy does not authorize the correction of records of former airmen to show name changes occurring after discharge (AFI 36-2608, *Military Personnel Records System*, Table A7.3 [Name Changes]). If the name appearing on the DD Form 214 was correct at the time it was created, the AFI would not allow a correction, even to reflect a subsequent, legal name change. The past practice of the Board has been to follow the AFI in all cases except [REDACTED].

AFBCMR Docket Number BC-2022-00220

applicant seeks to revert to either a maiden name or the name under which he or she entered service, or the Board finds a particular injustice that warrants an exception to policy, such as noted below in the SAF/MR memorandum.

AFI 36-2608, *Military Personnel Records System*, Table A7.1 (Correcting SSN in Records), provides as follows: Do not correct records of former Airmen unless evidence proves the SSN used while serving with the Air Force was incorrect or erroneously recorded. Required proof is an unaltered original document from the Social Security Administration (SSA), showing the applicant's name, the old or erroneous SSN, and the new or correct SSN.

ADDITIONAL APPLICABLE AUTHORITY/GUIDANCE

SAF/MR memorandum, *Guidance to the Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records*, dated 9 Mar 15, states that while the Board generally has the authority to correct an applicant's records to reflect a legal change to the applicant's name, it should exercise discretion in doing so. The DD Form 214 is primarily created for the benefit of the veteran to establish entitlements to various government programs, or in seeking employment with organizations that grant veteran's preferences. A DD Form 214 may constitute an injustice when the veteran asserts that presenting a DD Form 214 that lists the old name effectively requires a needlessly intrusive explanation of personal history. This type of injustice may arise in situations such as when the name change is transgender-related or associated with a divorce.

A complete copy of the SAF/MR memorandum is at Exhibit C.

APPLICANT'S REVIEW OF APPLICABLE AUTHORITY/GUIDANCE

The Board sent a copy of the SAF/MR memorandum to the applicant on 5 Apr 23, for comment (Exhibit D), but has received no response.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

1. The application was not timely filed. The applicant did not file the application within three years after the alleged error or injustice was discovered, as required by Title 10, United States Code, Section 1552, and Department of the Air Force Instruction 36-2603, *Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records* (AFBCMR).
2. The applicant exhausted all available non-judicial relief before applying to the Board.
3. After thoroughly reviewing all exhibits, the Board concludes that the applicant is not the victim of an error or injustice. The Board finds the applicant has not established that presenting their DD Form 214 with the previous legal name effectively requires a needlessly intrusive explanation of personal history. The Board also finds the applicant has not established the social security number was erroneously recorded on the DD Form 214. Therefore, the Board 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.

[REDACTED]

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-2022-00220 in Executive Session on 30 May 23:

[REDACTED], Panel Chair
[REDACTED], Panel Member
[REDACTED], Panel Member

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

Exhibit A: Application, DD Form 149, w/atchs, dated 30 Nov 21.
Exhibit B: Documentary Evidence, including relevant excerpts from official records.
Exhibit C: Memorandum, SAF/MR, dated 9 Mar 15.
Exhibit D: Notification of Memorandum, SAF/MRBC to Applicant, dated 5 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.

7/2/2025

X [REDACTED]

Board Operations Manager, AFBCMR
Signed by: [REDACTED]