



Work-Product

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

### RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2022-00573

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COUNSEL: NONE

HEARING REQUESTED: NO

### APPLICANT'S REQUEST

His DD Form 214, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*, be corrected to reflect award of the:

- a. Humanitarian Service Medal
- b. Air Force Achievement Medal (Pending administrative correction)
- c. Meritorious Unit Award (Pending administrative correction)

### APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS

He earned the awards while deployed in support of Operation INHERENT RESOLVE. He separated from the Air Force shortly after his deployment and did not receive the awards.

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit A.

### STATEMENT OF FACTS

Based on documentation provided by the applicant and analysis of the facts, the following information is provided:

The applicant is an honorably discharged Air Force staff sergeant (E-5).

On 2 Apr 21, the applicant was awarded the Air Force Achievement Medal while deployed to the 332d Air Expeditionary Wing (AEW) in support of Operation INHERENT RESOLVE from 30 Jul 20 to 7 Jan 21.

On 19 May 21, according to Special Order **Work-Product**, the Meritorious Unit Award was conferred on the 332d AEW for the period 1 Oct 20 to 30 Apr 21.

On 5 Jun 21, the 332d AEW commander issued a memorandum, stating the Department of Defense (DoD) approved the Humanitarian Service Medal for service members engaged in DoD Coronavirus 19 (COVID-19) operations and/or activities. All members deployed to 332d AEW staff agencies between the dates of 30 May 20 to 5 Jun 21 are eligible to receive the Humanitarian Service Medal.

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

**AFBCMR Docket Number BC-2022-00573**

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Controlled by: SAF/MRB

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Limited Dissemination Control: N/A

POC: [SAF.MRBC.Workflow@us.af.mil](mailto:SAF.MRBC.Workflow@us.af.mil)

## APPLICABLE AUTHORITY/GUIDANCE

AFMAN 36-2806, *Awards and Memorialization Program*. The Humanitarian Service Medal was authorized by Executive Order 11965, 19 Jan 77. It was established to honor personnel of the armed forces of the United States who distinguished themselves by meritorious direct participation (hands on) in a significant military act or operation of a humanitarian nature or have rendered a service to mankind. Specifically excluded from eligibility are service members or elements remaining at a geographically separated location or to a location and did not make a direct contribution to influence the action. For humanitarian operations outside of the United States, after 1 Apr 75, but on or before 6 Jan 16, the recipient must have been physically present at the designated location, having directly contributed to and influenced the action. The designated location is the immediate site(s) of the humanitarian operations as defined by the Department of State's request for assistance.

## AIR FORCE EVALUATION

AFPC/DP3SP recommends granting award of the Humanitarian Service Medal. After a thorough review of the applicant's military personnel record and documentation provided, award of the Air Force Achievement Medal and Meritorious Unit Award were verified. The applicant's record will be administratively corrected accordingly. Award of the Humanitarian Service Medal could not be verified. However, documentation provided by the applicant appears to support his contention he was awarded the Humanitarian Service Medal. More specifically, the applicant provided a signed memorandum and an AF Form 104, *Service Medal Award Verification*, from his servicing Military Personnel Flight approving award of the Humanitarian Service Medal to 332d AEW personnel during COVID-19 operations.

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 5 Jul 22 for comment (Exhibit D) but has received no response.

The applicant's complete response is at Exhibit E.

## 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. 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 his DD Form 214, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*, issued 14 Apr 21, was amended to reflect award of the Humanitarian 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-2022-00573 in Executive Session on 16 Mar 23:

Work-Product, Panel Chair

Work-Product, Panel Member

Work-Product, Panel Member

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

Exhibit A: Application, DD Form 149, w/atchs, dated 10 Feb 22.

Exhibit B: Documentary evidence, including relevant excerpts from official records.

Exhibit C: Advisory opinion, AFPC/DP3SP, dated 1 Jul 22.

Exhibit D: Notification of advisory, SAF/MRBC to applicant, dated 5 Jul 22.

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.

6/28/2023

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