



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2022-01938

Work-Product

COUNSEL: NONE

HEARING REQUESTED: YES

APPLICANT'S REQUEST

1. The "Given Under My Hand Date" on his Meritorious Service Medal, with second oak leaf cluster (MSM, w/2 OLC) be backdated prior to 1 Mar 22.
2. His duty title covering his 365-day deployment be corrected to reflect his proper unit of assignment.
3. He be considered by a special selection board (SSB) for the CY22B Lieutenant Colonel Central Selection Board (CSB).

APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS

His MSM w/2 OLC was earned well prior to the promotion board convening date of 1 Mar 22.

His duty title covering his 365-day deployment did not reflect the proper unit (AFCENT) per AFI 36-2406, *Officer and Enlisted Evaluations Systems*. The items were corrected, albeit after the promotion board convened.

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit A.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The applicant is a major (O-4) in the Air Force.

On 29 Oct 20, the applicant was notified of his nonselection for promotion by the CY20B Lieutenant Colonel (LAF) P0520B CSB; however, he was selected for continuation by the CY20B Major Selective Continuation Board.

On 4 Nov 20, the applicant declined continuation to 24 years of service but accepted continuation on active duty until qualified for retirement as an officer with 20 years active service (with 10 years commissioned service) or age 62, whichever date is earlier.

The applicant's officer performance report (OPR) for the period 28 Mar 21 to 28 Aug 21, shows he was assigned to Beale AFB, CA but with duty at Detachment 9, 9th Air Force, Air Force (Air Forces Central) (ACC), Al Udeid Qatar. His duty title shows as "Bahrain Air Defense Liaison Team (ADLT) Senior Duty Officer (SDO)."

The military personnel data system (MilPDS) shows his duty title as “ADLT Sr Duty Ofc AFC” with base as Beale, effective 23 Sep 20. The applicant was on a 365-day deployment and not a permanent change of station (PCS) assignment.

The CY22B Lieutenant Colonel LAF CSB (P0522B) convened on 1 Mar 22.

The applicant was awarded the MSM w/2 OLC for the inclusive period 26 Sep 20 to 28 Sep 21, the recommendation for decoration printout (RDP) shows 1 Oct 21 and “Given Under My Hand” date reflects 5 Apr 22.

On 27 Jul 22, the AFBCMR administratively closed the applicant’s request for failure to exhaust an available administrative remedy and instructed the applicant to contact AFPC for the correction of the “Given Under My Hand Date.”

On 12 Aug 22, the AFPC Recognitions Office informed the applicant the “Given Under My Hand Date” could not be amended in accordance with AFI 36-2803, *Military Decorations and Awards Program*. In an email dated 15 Aug 22, AFPC informed the applicant that only the AFBCMR could correct the date and he would have to appeal the request to the AFBCMR. As a result, the applicant’s case was re-opened for consideration by the Board.

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

APPLICABLE AUTHORITY/GUIDANCE

AFI 36-2406, *Officer and Enlisted Evaluations Systems*, paragraph 3.9.1.2.1 Duty Title Format: All extended deployment personnel duty titles will be standardized to reflect the extended deployment “duty title/country” assigned. If space allowed, include the unit assigned.

AIR FORCE EVALUATION

AFPC/DP3SP recommends denial. The “Given Under My Hand Date” is the date officially signed by the approving official. While the inclusive period of any decoration is prior to the “Given Under My Hand Date,” altering this date would be inconsistent for many decorations submitted within the three year-time period and would result in many decorations being altered. While it is unfortunate this decoration was not signed prior to the convening of a promotion board, there are many airmen/guardians whose decorations are processed well after the inclusive periods but within the three year time-period for submission of the nomination. To grant relief would be contrary to the criteria established by AFMAN 36-2806, *Awards and Memorialization Program*.

United States Air Forces Central Command (USAFCENT) was the approving authority for the decoration. Based on the USAFCENT process, decorations during deployments are reviewed by the decorations board each quarter. It appears the nomination was submitted between Oct 21 and Mar 22. Once the USAFCENT decorations board approves a nomination, the decoration elements are processed and then sent forward for inclusion into the official records, which is when the “Given Under My Hand Date” is established (the date signed by the approving authority).

While Department of the Defense (DOD) and Air Force policies are absent on the specific date of the “Given Under My Hand Date,” historically, this is the date the approving official signed the approved decoration. In this case, 5 Apr 22.

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 9 Jan 23 for comment (Exhibit D) and the applicant replied on 7 Feb 23. In his response, the applicant contended AFMAN 36-2806, A3.1 states recommendations for decorations should be submitted as soon as possible and placed in official channels in a timely manner. Due to the high turnover rate of the AFCENT staff, both his OPR and decoration were lost in the routing process creating significant delays and requiring intervention on his part to see them to completion. In the case of the decoration, it was not until after the P0522 promotion board convening date.

He agrees with the advisory that it is unfortunate that there are many airman/guardians whose decorations are processed well after the inclusive periods; however, that does not make it right. Given that the decoration was earned well in advance and that it was approved by a secondary higher official on 1 Oct 21 and that he exhausted all known means to track it down to ultimately have it signed after his intervention, he asks the Board to adjust the date to 5 Feb 22. As stated in the advisory, there is no specific guidance governing when the "Given Under My Hand Date" should occur.

He provides an email dated 15 Dec 21 in which AFCENT states the completion of his OPR dropped off their radar. He also provides an email dated 13 Jan 22 asking AFCENT for the status of his award submitted in Sep 21 and if there was any way to expedite it as he was meeting a board.

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 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 requests the "Given Under My Hand Date" for his MSM w/2 OLC be backdated due to the administrative delays in the processing of his award, his duty title for his 365-day deployment be corrected and he be granted SSB consideration for the CY22B Lieutenant Colonel CSB. The Board does not find the timeline for the processing of his MSM w/2 OLC was unreasonable or that it was not in accordance with the criteria established by AFMAN 36-2806. With respect to the request for his duty title to reflect his proper unit of assignment, the Board finds the MilPDS and the applicant's duty title on his OPR for the period ending 28 Aug 21 is accurate as reflected and shows he was on a 365-day deployment. Since the Board finds insufficient evidence for correction of the "Given Under My Hand Date" or his duty title, the Board finds no evidence to grant the applicant's request for a SSB for the CY22B Lieutenant Colonel CSB. Therefore, the Board recommends against correcting the applicant's records.
4. The applicant has not shown a personal appearance, with or without counsel, would materially add to the Board's understanding of the issues involved.

RECOMMENDATION

The Board recommends informing the applicant the evidence did not demonstrate material error or injustice, 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 Air Force Instruction (AFI) 36-2603, *Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records (AFBCMR)*, paragraph 1.5, considered Docket Number BC-2022-01938 in Executive Session on 7 Mar 23:

Work-Product Panel Chair
 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 14 Jul 22.
- Exhibit B: Documentary evidence, including relevant excerpts from official records.
- Exhibit C: Advisory Opinion, AFPC/DP3SP, dated 9 Jan 23.
- Exhibit D: Notification of Advisory, SAF/MRBC to Applicant, dated 9 Jan 23.
- Exhibit E: Applicant's Response, w/atchs, dated 7 Feb 23.

Taken together with all Exhibits, this document constitutes the true and complete Record of Proceedings, as required by AFI 36-2603, paragraph 4.11.9.

4/13/2025

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