

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

ADDENDUM TO RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2022-01990-2

Work-Product

COUNSEL: Work-Product

HEARING REQUESTED: NOT INDICATED

APPLICANT'S REQUEST

The Board reconsider his request to have his Informal Physical Evaluation Board (IPEB) unfitting condition - Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) - determination of not Combat Related be changed to Combat Related.

RESUME OF THE CASE

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

On 26 Oct 22, the Board considered and denied his request to have his IPEB unfitting condition – PTSD – determination of not Combat Related be changed to Combat Related, finding the applicant's PTSD is not a direct result of armed conflict, nor does it meet the requirements for instrumentality of war, because there is no evidence in his record he was directly engaged in combat with an enemy force or was directly fired upon by an enemy.

For an accounting of the applicant's original request and the rationale of the earlier decision, see the AFBCMR Letter and Record of Proceedings at Exhibit F.

On 23 Feb 24, the applicant requested reconsideration of his request to have his IPEB unfitting condition – PTSD – determination of not Combat Related be changed to Combat Related. He again contends his PTSD is a direct result of his activity in *Work-Product*, where he took direct fire from enemy combatants, cared for the combat injured and civilians, and witnessed dead from all sides. In support of his reconsideration request, the applicant submitted the following new evidence: Letters of Support from two Air Force members who served with him.

On 4 Mar 24, according to Special Order Number Work-Product dated 13 Feb 24, he was removed from the Temporary Disability Retired List and retired in the grade of major with a compensable percentage of 70 percent for physical disability. Additionally, it contains the following statements:

Disability received in line of duty as a direct result of armed conflict or caused by an instrumentality of war and incurred in line of duty during a period of war: NO.

Disability was the direct result of a combat related injury as defined in 26 USC 104: NO.

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit G.

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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 remains unconvinced the evidence presented demonstrates an error or injustice. While the Board notes the letters of support from the applicant's comrades attesting to his experiences, the Board must rely on the evidence, or lack thereof, within his records as there is no supporting documentation to show his PTSD condition meets the criteria to be deemed combat related in accordance with 26 USC 104. 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 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-2022-01990-2 in Executive Session on 10 Sep 24 and 20 Nov 24:



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

Exhibit F: Record of Proceedings, w/ Exhibits A-E, dated 16 Oct 23.

Exhibit G: Application, DD Form 149, w/atchs, dated 23 Feb 24.

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

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.

