

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2022-02130

XXXXXXXXXX

COUNSEL: NONE

(AKA) XXXXXXXXXXXXX

HEARING REQUESTED: YES

APPLICANT'S REQUEST

His DD Form 214, *Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge*, be amended as follows:

- a. His current legal name.
- b. His correct date of birth (DOB)

APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS

For future Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) benefits, his records should match his current driver's license and medical records.

In support of his request, the applicant provides copies of his birth certificate, driver license, DD Form 214, and his honorable discharge certificate.

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit A.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The applicant is a former Air Force sergeant (E-4).

The applicant served in the Air Force from 2 Jul 70 to 16 Apr 73, under the name GR and a DOB recorded differently than the DOB on his DD Form 214.

On 7 May 96, the applicant was issued a certified birth certificate, which indicates a different name and DOB from the name and DOB on the applicant's DD Form 214.

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

APPLICABLE AUTHORITY/GUIDANCE

Consistent with recommendations of the Air Staff and the Office of the Secretary of Defense Separations Standardization Working Group, the Board has established a precedent of granting requests for post-service name changes under the following conditions: (1) the applicant's name was changed as part of a transgender transition or the applicant is seeking to revert to a maiden name or the name under which he or she entered service; and (2) the change is supported by a court order, a divorce decree, or birth certificate (True Copy Raised Seal, Notarized, or official digital document with electronic signature); (3) the change is made only to the DD Form 214; and (4) the Board has not already granted a name change for the applicant.

AFI 36-2608, *Military Personnel Records System*, Table A7.5 (Correction to Date of Birth), Note 3, provides as follows: Do not correct records of former members unless evidence proves the date of birth used while serving with the Air Force was erroneously recorded. Required proof is an unaltered original document from the jurisdiction of the applicant's birth, showing the applicant's name and date of birth.

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

On 26 Aug 22, the Board sent a copy of the SAF/MR memorandum to the applicant for comment (Exhibit D), but has received no response.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

1. The application was not timely filed, but it is in the interest of justice to excuse the delay.
2. The applicant exhausted all available non-judicial relief before applying to the Board.
3. After thoroughly reviewing all Exhibits, the Board concludes the applicant is the victim of an error. Pending update of DoDI 1336.01, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214/5 Series)*, to allow administrative correction of the DD Form 214 without action of the Board, and based on recommendations from the Office of the Secretary of Defense Separations Standardization Working Group, the Board has established a precedent of granting requests for name changes on the DD Form 214 based on error under the following conditions: (1) the DD Form 214 was erroneous when issued; (2) the applicant provides adequate proof (True Copy Raised Seal, Notarized, or official digital document with electronic signature). In the present case, the Board finds the applicant has met the criteria noted above. In addition, the Board finds the applicant's date of birth used while serving with the Air Force was erroneously recorded. Therefore, the Board recommends correcting the applicant's records as indicated below.
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 pertinent military records of the Department of the Air Force relating to APPLICANT be corrected to show that the DD Form 214, *Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge*, issued in conjunction with the 16 Apr 73 discharge, be declared void; a new DD Form 214 be issued to reflect the current legal name in Block 1 and the correct DOB in Block 9; and no entries be made on the reissued DD Form 214 indicating the name was changed or the DD Form 214 was administratively reissued.

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-2022-02130 in Executive Session on 20 Apr 23:

, Panel Chair
, Panel Member
, Panel Member

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

Exhibit A: Application, DD Form 149, w/atchs, dated 19 Jul 22.
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 26 Aug 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.

X

Board Operations Manager, AFBCMR