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

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RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2022-02338

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COUNSEL: Work-Product

HEARING REQUESTED: Work-...

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APPLICANT'S REQUEST

His rank be upgraded from airman first class (E-3) to staff sergeant (E-5).

APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS

His alcoholism is related to Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) which he developed from being in Vietnam.

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit A.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The applicant is a former Air Force airman first class (E-3).

On 30 Nov 68, applicant received an Article 15, *Record of Non Judicial Punishment Proceedings (AB thru SSgt)*, for loitering upon his post. He received a suspended reduction to E-2 until 12 Dec 68.

On 13 Jun 69, applicant received an Article 15, for sleeping on post. He received a suspended reduction to E-3 until 13 Dec 69.

On 27 Aug 69, applicant's suspended reduction to the grade of E-3 for 13 Jun 69 Article 15 action was vacated due to indulgence in intoxicating liquor which incapacitated him for the proper performance of his duties on 23 Aug 69.

On 23 Sep 69, the commander recommended the applicant for an honorable discharge due to a defective attitude.

On 26 Sep 69, the discharge authority directed the applicant be discharged with an honorable characterization.

According to DD Form 214, *Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge*, dated 6 Oct 69, the applicant was discharged from active duty with an honorable characterization. He was credited with 3 years, 4 months, and 29 days of active service and 1 year, 9 months, and 17 days of foreign service.

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

AIR FORCE EVALUATION

AFPC/DPMSPP recommends denying the application. Based on documentation provided by the applicant and analysis of the facts, there is no evidence of an error or injustice. The applicant received an Article 15 with reduction in grade to airman first class (E-3) on 27 Aug 69 and receipt was acknowledged that he did not wish to appeal the punishment. There are no supporting promotion recommendation records or documents that state the applicant's rank should be restored to the rank of staff sergeant (E-5).

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 25 Jan 23 for comment (Exhibit D), but has received no response.

ADDITIONAL AIR FORCE EVALUATION

The AFRBA Psychological Advisor completed a review of all available records and finds insufficient evidence to support the applicant's request for the restoration of his previously held rank of staff sergeant (E-5). A review of the applicant's available service treatment records revealed the applicant saw a clinical psychologist while in service on at least one occasion. The physician stated "the applicant joined the Air Force in May, 66 and he started drinking about that time. He blames his drinking on his feelings about the Air Force and is glad to be released. This man is suffering from alcoholism of about three years duration and separation from the service is indicated."

A review of the applicant's post service treatment records maintained by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) revealed the applicant initiated mental health treatment with the VA on 1 Feb 05, 35 years post discharge, for PTSD. It was alluded his PTSD was caused by his military combat experiences in Vietnam in 67 & 68. Applicant states he had a total nightmare when he came back to US and tried to go back to normal. Applicant started drinking alcohol regularly at age 18. He was screened for PTSD by a nurse practitioner and endorsed symptoms of having repeated and disturbing dreams of a stressful experience. He was given a diagnosis of PTSD, alcohol dependence in remission, and marijuana dependence in remission. On 15 Apr 05, the applicant met with a psychiatrist for a psychiatric evaluation. His psychiatrist noted "57 year old Caucasian male, no previous psychiatric history. He was given a diagnosis of Acute, PTSD, now largely resolved by the psychiatrist. It is to note that his experiences in Vietnam were not discussed or identified as his traumatic experience but from an incident at his post service employment. The applicant would receive regular mental health treatment from the VA for PTSD since initiating treatment on 1 Feb 05 and ending on 19 Dec 18."

The majority of the applicant's Article 15's were received after he returned from Vietnam. While it was established his drinking problems had predated his time in Vietnam, it is unclear from his limited records if his military experiences in Vietnam had aggravated his pre-existing drinking issues causing an increase in his consumption of alcohol to cope or whether his disciplinary issues were the results from regular excessive drinking activities that continued from habits that had existed prior to Vietnam. As a result of an extensive review of his records, the psychological advisor finds no error or injustice with his rank reductions from a mental health standpoint. His mental health condition may have been a factor to or caused one of his rank reductions, but his condition does not excuse him from the consequences from his recurring maladaptive behaviors.

The complete advisory opinion is at Exhibit E.

APPLICANT'S REVIEW OF ADDITIONAL AIR FORCE EVALUATION

The Board sent a copy of the advisory opinion to the applicant on 27 Jun 23 for comment (Exhibit F), but has received no response.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

1. The application was not timely filed. The Board notes the applicant did not file the application within three years of discovering the alleged error or injustice, as required by Section 1552 of Title 10, United States Code, and Department of the Air Force Instruction 36-2603, *Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records (AFBCMR)*. The Board does not find it in the interest of justice to waive the three-year filing requirement.
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/DPMSPP and SAF/MH and finds a preponderance of the evidence does not substantiate the applicant's contentions. 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.

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-2022-02338 in Executive Session on 15 Aug 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:

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- Exhibit A: Application, DD Form 149, no atchs, dated 23 Aug 23.
Exhibit B: Documentary evidence, including relevant excerpts from official records.
Exhibit C: Advisory Opinion, AFPC/DPMSPP, dated 24 Jan 23.
Exhibit D: Notification of Advisory, SAF/MRBC to Applicant, dated 25 Jan 23.
Exhibit E: Advisory Opinion, SAF/MH, dated 23 Jun 23.
Exhibit F: Notification of Advisory, SAF/MRBC to Applicant, dated 27 Jun 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.

8/28/2025

X

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Board Operations Manager, AFBCMR

Signed by: *Work-Product*

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