



**CUI//SP-MIL/SP-PRVCY**

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

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**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

*Work-Product*

**DOCKET NUMBER:** BC-2022-02388

**COUNSEL:** *Work-Product*

**HEARING REQUESTED:** YES

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**APPLICANT'S REQUEST**

He be reconsidered for, and awarded, the following medals:

- a. Air and Space Achievement Medal, for the period of 3 Jul 15 – 15 May 20.
- b. Air and Space Commendation Medal, for the period of 15 May 20 – 28 Oct 20.

**APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS**

He was assigned to the *Work-Product* Air Support Operations Squadron for seven and one-half years, from 3 Jul 13 – 28 Oct 20, and was recommended for an extended tour ASAM and an ASCOM for his permanent change of station (PCS) move. However, after arriving at his new duty station he was informed that both were denied and the reasons for the command leadership to deem his service unmeritorious and deny him the awards are unknown to him. He believes that he is being made an example of for personal reasons that have nothing to do with his professional performance even though this same command staff signed two Officer Training School recommendation packages supported by two different wing commanders.

The commander who denied him the ASCOM, fully supported him getting a mid-tour medal, the ASAM. However, as the ASAM had yet to be awarded, his new commander not only denied the ASAM but he also denied the award of the ASCOM, stating that "too much water under the bridge," which is not only an unprofessional statement, but it goes against the service's core values. However, this same commander gave a AFCOM to an airman who had received an Article 15.

When he contacted the Air Force Personnel Center Recognitions office to try to get the decorations awarded without the commander's recommendation, he was informed that since more than one year had passed since the decorations were disapproved, in accordance with DAFMAN 36-2806, he was outside the reconsideration time limit, therefore a one-time reconsideration for the decorations could not be accomplished. Due to the injustice of not receiving these medals, he missed getting promoted to technical sergeant by 3.8 points. He knows for a fact that his service was meritorious and he went out of his way to gain more responsibility. Yet, while he strives for more, others just meet the minimum and are guaranteed PCS medals.


The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit A.

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Controlled by: SAF/MRB  
CUI Categories: SP-MIL/SP-PRVCY  
Limited Dissemination Control: N/A  
POC: [SAF.MRBC.Workflow@us.af.mil](mailto:SAF.MRBC.Workflow@us.af.mil)

## **STATEMENT OF FACTS**

The applicant is an Air Force Staff sergeant (E-5).

From 3 Jul 13 – 28 Oct 20, according to a pull from the applicant's *Statistical Analysis & Retrieval System + Retrieval Applications Website (STARS RAW)* record, he was assigned to the  Air Support Operations Squadron.

On 23 May 23, according to email from the applicant to the Air Force Personnel Center Recognitions Team (AFPC/DP1SSP), the applicant requested AFPC/DP1SSP reconsider the denial of the decorations. On 25 May 23, AFPC/DP1SSP replied and confirmed that in accordance with DAFMAN 36-2806, they are unable to act as he failed to initiate a reconsideration request within one-year of the recommendation being disapproved.

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

## **APPLICABLE AUTHORITY/GUIDANCE**

Department of the Air Force (DAFMAN) 36-2806, *Military Awards: Criteria and Procedures*:

2.19. Submitting a Recommendation. Supervisors and commanders, at all levels, ensure only deserving personnel are submitted for personal military decorations. Submit recommendations as soon as possible following the act, achievement, or service to ensure the time limitation (see Section 2B) is met. Refer to Attachment 3 for additional guidance.

2.19.1. Do not submit recommendations in a token effort to “do something for your people”.

2.19.3. Recommendations are based solely on the merits of a member's actions or the member's level of responsibility, achievements, accomplishments, and manner of performance.

2.19.7. No member is automatically entitled to a personal military decoration upon a permanent change of station, permanent change of assignment, retirement, separation, completion of a temporary duty, or reaching or achieving other career points at which a personal military decoration may be expected or customarily awarded.

A3.1. Initiating a Recommendation. Recommendations should be submitted as soon as possible following the act, achievement, or service. It is the responsibility of the recommending official to ensure a recommendation is placed into official channels in a timely manner (refer to Section 2B). A recommendation is considered in official channels when the recommending official signs the recommendation and a higher official in the member's chain of command endorses it. Should the recommending official not endorse the submission, the submission is considered disapproved. Refer to Section 2B for initiating recommendations past the time limitation.

A3.3. Reconsideration and Upgrade Requests. Initiate a reconsideration (or upgrade) request within 1 year of the date the recommendation was disapproved. A one-time reconsideration of a disapproved or downgraded decoration or a request for upgrade of an approved decoration, may be submitted through the same official channels as the original recommendation to the current approval authority (in that chain of command) for decision. Requests must include new, substantive, and relevant material evidence that was not available or known at the time the original recommendation was considered or evidence of material error or impropriety in the processing or adjudication of the original recommendation. Information that merely adds details to what was

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previously provided in the original recommendation does not meet the “new and relevant” requirement. Also see checklist at Table 2.1.

Table 2.1 Recommendation Checklist.

Mark “X”	Supporting Documents
	Original or reconstructed narrative justification
	Eyewitness statements (2 or more) attesting to the actions performed by the nominee. Statements are written in the eyewitnesses’ words (not on a prepared form), signed and notarized, and contain a complete description of the nominee’s actions and the contact information for the eyewitnesses. Nominees may not submit a statement supporting their own recommendation.
	Sworn affidavit(s) from individual(s) making statement(s) on behalf of nominee <i>(if applicable)</i>
	Medical documentation substantiating wound(s) <i>(if applicable)</i>
	Chain of command endorsements
	Written concurrence (signature) of member or PNOK <i>(if applicable)</i>
	Proposed citation
	Other relevant documents pertaining to the unit and the act(s) to be recognized (i.e., extracts of unit records, sketches, maps, diagrams, photographs, flight records, Report of Separation – WD AGO 53-55, DD Form 214, etc.). Determinations regarding personal military decorations are based on verifiable facts, therefore other forms of information such as letters, books, newspaper and magazine articles, and personal diaries are not considered, as they are not official documents; however, they may be included to provide additional context.
	List of all acronyms used in nomination packet <i>(if applicable)</i>
	A letter from a member of Congress requesting the review

**AIR FORCE EVALUATION**

AFPC/DP3SP recommends denying the applicant’s request for the award of the Air and Space Achievement Medal (ASAM) and the award of the Air and Space Commendation Medal (ASCOM). After a thorough review of the applicant’s official military personnel record, and documentation provided by the applicant, the award of the ASAM and ASCOM were unable to be verified and fall outside the one-year time frame for reconsideration.

According to DAFMAN 36-2806, paragraph A2.15, the ASAM was established by SecAF on 12 Oct 80. The medal is awarded to any service member, or to any member of the armed forces of a friendly foreign nation, who has distinguished himself or herself by outstanding achievement or meritorious service. On 16 Nov 20, SecAF approved the renaming of the Air Force Achievement Medal to the Air and Space Achievement Medal. The ASAM is awarded to U.S. and foreign military personnel in the grade of O-5 and below. No more than one ASAM may be awarded during a 1-year period except under extraordinary circumstances. The ASAM may not be awarded for aerial achievement or retirement. Superior performance of duty or attainment of honors based solely on academic achievement (such as graduating with honors from a Noncommissioned Officer Academy or other course of instruction) does not, in itself, constitute justification for an award of the ASAM and ASAMs should be restricted to achievements or services that are clearly

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outstanding and unmistakably exceptional when compared to similar achievements and accomplishments of personnel of like grade and responsibilities. Accordingly, appropriate remarks on effectiveness and performance reports, favorable communications, locally developed certificates, and command special trophies and awards provide ample means of recognizing the high caliber performance expected of DAF members. The successful accomplishment of a predesignated number of tasks or functions is not a valid basis for an award of the ASAM. However, unusual and extraordinary sustained performance may be used as a point of departure in justifying meritorious achievement or service. In instances where persons are affiliated with an exceptionally successful program, project, or mission, the medal may only be awarded to the relatively few members whose contributions clearly stand out from the others, and who have contributed most to the success of the program.

According to paragraph A12.14, the ASCOM was established by SecAF, 24 Mar 58 and announced in DAF General Orders No. 16, 28 Mar 58. The medal is awarded to any service member, or to any member of the armed forces of a friendly foreign nation, who has distinguished himself or herself by meritorious achievement or service, valor, or heroism. On 16 Nov 20, SecAF approved the renaming of the Air Force Commendation Medal to the Air and Space Commendation Medal. The ASCOM is awarded to U.S. and foreign military personnel in the grade of O-6 and below. Do not award to U.S. and foreign general or flag officer grades (O-7 and above). Awarded for achievement, service, or heroism that does not rise to the level of the Bronze Star medal. Awarded for heroism that does not rise to the level of the Airman Medal. The ASCOM may also be awarded for sustained meritorious performance by crewmembers. Members assigned to training positions (staff and faculty) are eligible for the ASCOM; students of such training are not.

Finally, according to paragraph 3.4, initiate a reconsideration request within 1 year of the date the recommendation was disapproved. Requests are submitted through the same official channels that the original recommendation was processed to the current approval authority (in that chain of command) for decision. The request should include justification for the reconsideration and a copy of the original recommendation package, to include all endorsements and previous decisions. A one-time reconsideration by the approval authority is final.

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 10 Oct 23 for comment (Exhibit D), and the applicant replied on 10 Nov 23. In his response, the applicant contended the advisory's explanation on why the medals are unable to be verified as the request for reconsideration was outside the timeframe is incorrect. According to DAFMAN 26-2806, Section 2B, Time Limitation, paragraph 2.12.1 states recommendations (including reconsiderations and upgrades), are entered into official channels *within 3 years and awarded within 5 years* <emphasis added> of the act, achievement, or service performed. He met this criterion as he entered his reconsideration request into official channels on 9 May 23, which is within three years. He reiterates that the denial of these two medals was purely personal with no valid professional reasoning behind it as he knows of two other members who were awarded the ASAM for extended tours and the ASCOM for permanent change of station move. This is a blatant abuse of power as he had never been in trouble or has never been counseled due to poor performance. Finally, had he received these two medals, it would have provided an additional four (4) points towards promotion which would have resulted in his promotion to technical sergeant (E-6) in 2020.

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. While the applicant believes that he should be awarded the Air and Space Achievement Medal and the Air and Space Commendation Medal, 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. In accordance with DAFMAN 36-2806, recommendations for awards are at the discretion of commanders and supervisors and are based solely on the merits of a member's actions or the member's level of responsibility, achievements, accomplishments, and manner of performance and that no member is automatically entitled to a personal military decoration upon a permanent change of station, permanent change of assignment, retirement, separation, completion of a temporary duty, or reaching or achieving other career points at which a personal military decoration may be expected or customarily awarded. 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-2022-02388 in Executive Session on 7 Nov 23 and 5 Dec 23.

<i>Work-Product</i>	Panel Chair
<i>Work-Product</i>	Panel Member
<i>Work-Product</i>	Panel Member

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

- Exhibit A: Application, DD Form 149, w/atchs, dated 9 May 23.
- Exhibit B: Documentary evidence, including relevant excerpts from official records.
- Exhibit C: Advisory Opinion, AFPC/DP3SP, dated 6 Oct 23.
- Exhibit D: Notification of Advisory, SAF/MRBC to Applicant, dated 10 Oct 23.
- Exhibit E: Applicant's Response to Advisory, 10 Nov 23.

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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  9/20/2024  
*Work-Product*

Board Operations Manager, AFBCMR

Signed by:  *Work-Product*