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UNITED STATES AIR FORCE BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2022-02532

Work-Product

COUNSEL: NONE

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HEARING REQUESTED: NO

APPLICANT'S REQUEST

Her DD Form 214, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*, be corrected to reflect her current legal name and the following awards:

- Global War on Terrorism Service Medal.
- Korea Defense Service Medal. (**Administratively corrected**)
- Air Force Overseas Ribbon-Short Tour. (**Administratively corrected**)

APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS

Her DD Form 214 should reflect her name was legally changed due to divorce and remarriage and should be changed to align with her records within the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA). It also complicates her job application process. Additionally, her DD Form 214 should reflect the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal for her service from 11 Dec 01 to 30 Apr 04.

The applicant provided a letter from the DVA, dated 8 Sep 22, reflecting the name she requests on her DD Form 214.

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit A.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The applicant is an honorably discharged Air Force airman first class (E-3).

The applicant served in the Air Force from 11 Dec 01 to 30 Apr 04, under the names [Work-Pr...] and [Work-Pr...].

On 30 Apr 04, the applicant was discharged and issued DD Form 214, under the name [Work-Pr...]. Block 13. *Decorations, Medals, Badges Citations, and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized* reflects: Air Force Achievement Medal National Defense Service Medal, and Air Force Training Ribbon.

On 8 Sep 10, according to documentation provided by the applicant, her dissolution of marriage was finalized. Her name reflects [Work-Pr...].

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On 23 Mar 23, HQ AFPC/DP3AM (Directorate of Assignments) verified the applicant served in the Republic of Korea from 5 Aug 02 to 31 Aug 03, for 1 year and 27 days. The foreign service on the applicant's DD Form 214 appears to be accurate; therefore, a correction is not needed. Since foreign locations are not annotated on the DD Form 214, they issued the applicant a "boots on the ground" letter she may use as proof of foreign service in the Republic of Korea.

On 15 Sep 23, AFPC/DP3SP (Recognition Program) verified entitlement to the Korea Defense Service Medal and Air Force Overseas Ribbon-Short Tour for administrative correction of the applicant's record.

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

APPLICABLE AUTHORITY/GUIDANCE

Air Force policy does not authorize the correction of records of former airmen to show name changes occurring after discharge (AFI 36-2608, *Military Personnel Records System*, Table A7.3 [Name Changes]). In particular, if the name appearing on the DD Form 214 was correct at the time it was created, the AFI would not allow a correction, even to reflect a subsequent, legal name change. The past practice of the Board has been to follow the AFI in all cases except those where the applicant seeks to revert to either a maiden name or the name under which he or she entered service, or the Board finds a particular injustice that warrants an exception to policy, such as noted below in the SAF/MR memorandum.

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

The Board sent a copy of the SAF/MR memorandum to the applicant on 18 Sep 23 for comment (Exhibit D) but has received no response.

AIR FORCE EVALUATION

AFPC/DP3SP recommends denying the applicant's request for the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal. In accordance with Department of the Air Force Manual (DAFMAN) 36-2806, *Military Awards Criteria and Procedures*, paragraph A13.11, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal was established 12 Mar 03, to recognize the significant contributions of the members of the Armed Forces in support of designated War on Terrorism operations. The medal is awarded to members who, on or after 11 Sep 01 through 10 Sep 22, supported operations to counter terrorism in a non-deployed status, whether stationed in the U.S. or overseas. The member must have served on active duty, on or after 11 Sep 01, for a minimum of 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days, not including initial accession training; or regardless of time served while

on active duty, on or after 11 Sep 01, and was engaged in actual combat; or was killed, wounded, or died not due to negligence or wrongful misconduct.

After a review of the applicant's official military personnel record and documentation provided, there was insufficient evidence to verify the applicant served in support of an official military operation authorized the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal. To grant relief would be contrary to the criteria established in DAFMAN 36-2608.

Notwithstanding the above, they were able to verify entitlement to the Korea Service Defense Medal and Air Force Overseas Ribbon-Short Tour for administrative correction of the applicant's record.

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 29 Sep 23 for comment (Exhibit D) 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 (DAFI) 36-2603, *Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records (AFBCMR)*. While the applicant asserts a date of discovery within the three-year limit, the Board does not find the assertion supported by a preponderance of the evidence.
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 applicant contends her DD Form 214 should be corrected to reflect her current legal name due to post-service divorce and remarriage. However, the Board disagreed and finds the applicant has not established that presenting the applicant's DD Form 214 with the previous legal name effectively requires a needlessly intrusive explanation of personal history in accordance with policy. The applicant also contends her DD Form 214 should include the requested awards. 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 this respect, AFPC/DP3SP was able to verify entitlement to the Korea Service Defense Medal and Air Force Overseas Ribbon-Short Tour to administratively correct the applicant's record. However, there is insufficient evidence the applicant meets eligibility criteria for the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal. Therefore, the Board recommends against correcting the applicant's record, beyond that corrected administratively.

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 DAFI 36-2603, paragraph 2.1, considered Docket Number BC-2022-02532 in Executive Session on 27 Jun 24:

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 8 Sep 22.
- Exhibit B: Documentary evidence, including relevant excerpts from official records.
- Exhibit C: Memorandum, Name Changes, SAF/MR, dated 9 Mar 15.
- Exhibit D: Notification of Memorandum, SAF/MRBC to Applicant, dated 18 Sep 23.
- Exhibit E: Advisory, HQ AFPC/DP3SP, 15 Sep 23.
- Exhibit F: Notification of Advisory, SAF/MRBC to Applicant, dated 18 Sep 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.

5/5/2025

X Work-Pr...

Board Operations Manager, AFBCMR

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