

## RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

**DOCKET NUMBER:** BC-2022-02974

XXXXXXXXXX

**COUNSEL:** NONE

(AKA) XXXXXXXXXXXX

**HEARING REQUESTED:** NO

### APPLICANT'S REQUEST

The name on her DD Form 214, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*, be changed to reflect her current legal name.

### APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS

She needs her DD Form 214 updated to reflect her current legal name so that she can get an updated retirement ID card. She is also a dependent of a retiree and a general schedule employee, so she needs this change to update those new cards as well.

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit A.

### STATEMENT OF FACTS

The applicant is a retired Air Force master sergeant (E-7).

The applicant entered the Air Force on 4 Mar 93 under the name TSP.

On 15 Mar 94, according to AF Form 281, Notification of Change in Service Member's Records, the applicant changed her name from TSP to TSA.

On 29 Dec 02, according to AF Form 281, the applicant changed her name from TSA to TSG.

On 2 Nov 07, according to AF Form 281, the applicant changed her name from TSG to TSC.

On 20 Jul 09, according to AF Form 281, the applicant changed her name from TSC to TSG.

On 15 Apr 11, according to AF Form 281, the applicant changed her name from TSG to TSC.

On 4 May 12, according to AF Form 281, the applicant changed her name from TSC to TSZ.

On 26 Oct 22, the applicant obtained a court order to change her name from TSZ to SC-Z.

On 6 Dec 22, according to AF Form 281, the applicant's name was changed from TSZ to SC-Z.

On 6 Dec 22, AFPC/DP2SSM (Automated Records Management System/Master Personnel Records) published a letter informing the applicant her name has been updated from TSZ to SC-Z in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System, and Defense Finance Accounting Service. The change has also been updated in the applicant's Military Personnel Data System Retired File. A copy of AF Form 281 was provided to the applicant as a source document.

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 6 Dec 22, for comment (Exhibit D), but has received no response.

### **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. The Board 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. Therefore, the Board recommends against correcting the applicant's records.

### **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-2022-02974 in Executive Session on 17 Aug 23:

, Panel Chair  
, Panel Member  
, Panel Member

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

Exhibit A: Application, DD Form 149, w/atchs, dated 8 Nov 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 6 Dec 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.

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Board Operations Manager, AFBCMR