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UNITED STATES AIR FORCE BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

Work-Product

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2022-03256

COUNSEL: NONE

HEARING REQUESTED: NO

APPLICANT'S REQUEST

He be authorized a 10 percent increase in retirement pay for extraordinary heroism as evidenced by his award of the Bronze Star Medal with Valor.

APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS

He served 20 years as a Pararescueman and deployed 15 times to combat zones around the world. On this occasion, he was deployed to Afghanistan and came under enemy fire multiple times while extracting wounded personnel. The citation does not do justice to the heroism he and his team displayed.

He does not believe consideration for a retired pay increase (10 percent) was made based on the fact he received a Bronze Star Medal with Valor. He questions how an Airman's Medal or noncombat Distinguished Flying Cross is held to a higher standard than a Bronze Star Medal with Valor awarded for combat operations.

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit A.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

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

On 14 Feb 11, according to Special Order **Work-Product** the applicant was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroic actions and unselfish dedication to duty during an urgent medical evacuation.

On 31 Aug 22, the applicant was relieved from active duty for the purpose of retirement. He was credited with 20 years and 18 days of active service.

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

AIR FORCE EVALUATION

SAF/MRBP recommends denying the application. In accordance with AFI 36-3203, *Service Retirements*, active component enlisted members who had deeds of extraordinary heroism may be entitled to receive an additional 10 percent in retired pay. Based on award criterion, the Medal of

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Controlled by: SAF/MRB

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Limited Dissemination Control: N/A

POC: SAF.MRBC.Workflow@us.af.mil

Honor and Air Force Cross, or Service equivalent decorations, provide automatic entitlement to an additional 10 percent in retirement pay (not to exceed 75 percent). The Secretary of the Air Force has the authority to evaluate the heroic actions that have earned the Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross (noncombat), and the Airman's Medal to determine if extraordinary heroism was involved, which would entitle the recipient to the increase in retired pay. Since 1969, enlisted members who have been awarded the Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross (noncombat), or the Airman's Medal have been automatically considered for the entitlement. If approved, the member's special order approving the decoration will include a statement to that fact. AFI 36-3203 authorizes consideration for an additional 10 percent in retirement pay for certain decorations and the Bronze Star Medal with Valor is not among these decorations. To grant relief would be contrary to long-standing Department of the Air Force policy.

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 24 Apr 23 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 concurs with the rationale and recommendation of SAF/MRBP 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 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-2022-03256 in Executive Session on 3 Oct 23:

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Panel Chair

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Panel Member

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Panel Member

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

Exhibit A: Application, DD Form 149, w/atchs, dated 8 Dec 22.

Exhibit B: Documentary evidence, including relevant excerpts from official records.

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Exhibit C: Advisory Opinion, SAF/MRBP, w/atchs, dated 24 Apr 23.

Exhibit D: Notification of Advisory, SAF/MRBC to Applicant, dated 24 Apr 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.

/29/2025

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Board Operations Manager, AFBCMR

Signed by: *Work-Product*

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