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UNITED STATES AIR FORCE BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2023-00129

Work-Product

COUNSEL: Work-Product

HEARING REQUESTED: NO

APPLICANT'S REQUEST

His DD Form 214, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*, dated 4 Dec 98, be corrected to reflect he was awarded the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (AFEM) for his service during Operation PROVIDE COMFORT.

APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS

He should have been awarded an AFEM for his deployment to the 7440th Provisional Wing to Work-Product for the period of 5 Oct 96 – 8 Feb 97 in support of Operation PROVIDE COMFORT.

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit A.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The applicant is a former Air Force senior airman (E-4).

On 11 Sep 96, according to Special Order Work-Product provided by the applicant, he was ordered to proceed on or about 9 Oct 96 to Work-Product for the purpose of participation in Operation PROVIDE COMFORT for a temporary duty(TDY) assignment of 124 days.

According to AF Form 77, *Supplemental Evaluation Sheet*, signed 18 Jan 97, provided by the applicant, reflects he was TDY to Incirlik AB in support of Operation PROVIDE COMFORT for the period of 5 Oct 96 – 8 Feb 97.

On 4 Dec 98, according to DD Form 214, he was honorably discharged and credited with 6 years, 9 months, and 14 days of total active service, to include 1 year, 6 months, and 5 days of Foreign Service. Block 13, *Decorations, Medals, Badges, Citations and Campaign Ribbons Awarded or Authorized (All periods of service)*, reflects the: Air Force Achievement Medal, Air Force Longevity Service Award, Air Force Training Ribbon, Southwest Asia Service Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal with one device, National Defense Service Medal, Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon/Pistol, NCO Professional Education Ribbon, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, Air Force Good Conduct Medal with one device, and the Air Force Overseas Short Tour Ribbon.

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

AFBCMR Docket Number BC-2023-00129

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Controlled by: SAF/MRB
CUI Categories: Work-Product
Limited Dissemination Control: N/A
POC: SAF.MRBC.Workflow@us.af.mil

APPLICABLE AUTHORITY/GUIDANCE

Department Air Force Manual (DAFMAN) 36-2806, *Awards and Memorialization Program*, 27 Oct 22, Table A13.2. Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal Qualifying Operations: (excerpt)

Operation	Operation Dates
Southwest Asia – SOUTHERN WATCH	1 Dec 95 – 18 Mar 03
Southwest Asia -NOTHERN WATCH	1 Jan 97 – Mar 03
Southwest Asia – DESERT SPRING	31 Dec 98 – 18 Mar 03

AIR FORCE EVALUATION

AFPC/DP3SP recommends denying the request. After a thorough review of the applicant's official military record, and documentation provided by the applicant, to possibly provide administrative relief, the award of the AFEM was unable to be verified.

According to DAFMAN 36-2806, The Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal is awarded to members of the U.S. Armed Forces who, after 1 Jul 58, participated in U.S. military operations, U.S. operations in direct support of the United Nations, or U.S. operations of assistance for friendly foreign nations (see **Table A14.2**). The Joint Chiefs of Staff designates operations that qualify for the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, specifies the degree of participation required, and defines the area of operations. Service members must be bona fide members of a unit participating in or be engaged in the direct support of the operation for 30 consecutive days in the area of operations (or for the full period when an operation is less than 30 days duration), or for 60 nonconsecutive days provided the support involved entering the area of operations or met one or more of the following criteria:

Unfortunately, Operation PROVIDE COMFORT is not a qualifying operation, in accordance with DAFMAN 36-2806, Table 13.2, for the award of the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal. However, his deployment was appropriately recognized as he was awarded the Armed Forces Service Medal, which is annotated on his DD Form 214, dated 4 Dec 98.

Therefore, based on the documentation provided and a review of the applicant's official military record, there is no evidence of an error or injustice as the applicant does not meet the established criteria for the award of the AFEM. To grant the request would be contrary to the criteria established by DAFMAN 36-2806.

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 30 Oct 23 for comment (Exhibit D) but has received no response.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

1. Although the application was not timely filed within the three-year limitation period established by 10 U.S.C. § 1552 (b), the untimeliness is waived in the interest of justice.
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/DP3SP and finds a preponderance of the evidence does not substantiate the applicant's contentions. While the applicant contends he should be awarded the AFEM for his participation in Operation PROVIDE COMFORT, the Board notes, in accordance with DAFMAN 36-2806, Operation PROVIDE COMFORT is not a AFEM qualifying operation. However, the Board also notes his participation was appropriately recognized as he was awarded the Armed Forces Service Medal, as annotated on his DD Form 214. 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-2023-00129 in Executive Session on 23 Apr 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 29 Dec 22.
- Exhibit B: Documentary evidence, including relevant excerpts from official records.
- Exhibit C: Advisory Opinion, AFPC/DP3SP, dated 5 Oct 23.
- Exhibit D: Notification of Advisory, SAF/MRBC to Applicant, dated 30 Oct 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.

5/8/2024

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Board Operations Manager, AFBCMR

Signed by: Work-Product

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