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

### RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2023-01974

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COUNSEL: NONE

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HEARING REQUESTED: NO

### APPLICANT'S REQUEST

The name on his DD Form 214, *Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge*, be changed to reflect his current legal name.

### APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS

He would like all separation records to reflect his correct legal name.

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit A.

### STATEMENT OF FACTS

The applicant is an honorably discharged Air Force staff sergeant (E-5).

The applicant served in the Air Force from 22 Apr 68 to 8 Apr 72, under the name [REDACTED].

On 12 Nov 84, the applicant obtained a court order to change his middle and last names.

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

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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 22 Dec 23 for comment (Exhibit D), but has received no response.

## **FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION**

1. The application was not 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 their 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. The Board also 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. The Board does not find it in the interest of justice to waive the three-year filing requirement and finds the application untimely.

## **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-2023-01974 in Executive Session on 28 Mar 24:

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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 18 Jun 23.
- Exhibit B: Documentary Evidence, including relevant excerpts from official records.
- Exhibit C: Memorandum, SAF/MR, dated 9 Mar 15.
- Exhibit D: Notification to applicant, SAF/MRBC, dated 22 Dec 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.

7/19/2024

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