THE FORCE

CUI//SP-MIL/SP-PRVCY

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF: DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2023-03332

Work-Product COUNSEL: NONE

HEARING REQUESTED: YES

APPLICANT'S REQUEST

Twenty (20) days of leave be restored to her current leave balance.

APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS

She lost 20 days of leave at the end of Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) due to short-notice deployment. She submitted a request to the Air Force Personnel Center (AFPC) and the request was denied under two case numbers. AFPC's responses are not in line with DAFI 36-3003, *Military Leave Program*. She believes this is an injustice. Based on the requirements of eligibility for leave restoration, all requirements were met according to SLA DAFI 36-3003

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit A.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The applicant is a currently serving Air Force captain (O-3).

The applicant provided the following documents:

DD Form 1610, Request and Authorization for TDY Travel of DoD Personnel, indicates the following: Type of Authorization – AA Routine TDY/TAD; TDY Purpose – Other Travel; Approximate Number of TDY Days – 102; Proceed Date – 15 July 2022; Itinerary – from Pope Work-Product

A travel voucher dated 3 February 2023, indicates the applicant traveled from *Work-Product*, on 17 July 2022 arriving in *Work-Product* on 24 October 2022.

On 22 March 2023, the applicant's commander signed a memorandum concurring with the applicant's request that 20 days of leave be restored. The applicant was unable to take leave during FY22 due to short notification of deployment from 17 July 2022 to 24 October 2022, which resulted in her losing 20 days of leave.

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

AIR FORCE EVALUATION

AFPC/DPMSSM recommends granting the application. The applicant was not able to take

Controlled by: SAF/MRB

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sufficient leave due to short-notice deployment. The applicant used 10 days of annual leave and had 21 days of leave scheduled during July and August 2022. She was tasked with a short-notice deployment on 11 July 2022 with a departure date of 17 July 2022 and returned 24 October 2022, totaling 100 days deployed. The applicant was forced to cancel her leave due to mission support. She applied for SLA but was denied due to not meeting criteria outlined in DAFI 36-3003. DAFI 36-3003 states that to be eligible for SLA service members must meet the following criteria:

- 1. Was deployed/assigned to a hostile fire/imminent danger pay area for 120 consecutive days or more.
- 2. Was deployed to a non-hostile fire pay and/or imminent danger pay area in support of a contingency operation and are on Contingency, Exercise, or Deployment orders.
 - 3. Performing duty in a "qualifying duty" as designated by SAF/MR.
- 4. Performing duty designated by the SecAF as qualifying duty caused by a catastrophe, national emergency and/or crisis or operations in defense of national security.

The applicant argues she met item four above; however, the DAFI states the situation preventing members from using leave must have been caused by a catastrophe, national emergency and/or crisis or operations in defense of national security. The member's support of a contingency operation in defense of national security for 120 or more consecutive days, whether in a hostile fire or imminent danger or area or not, does not automatically qualify a member for SLA.

The documentation provided by the applicant and analysis of the facts indicate there is evidence of an error or injustice. The applicant tried to manage her leave by scheduling leave for July and August but was met with circumstances that affected her ability to exhaust 20 days of leave before the end of the FY22. Because the deployment and mission requirements were not within the applicant's control, not restoring the leave would be an injustice.

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 8 December 2023 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 the victim of an error or injustice. The Board concurs with the rationale and recommendation of AFPC/DPMSSM and finds a preponderance of the evidence substantiates the applicant's contentions. Therefore, the Board recommends correcting the applicant's records as indicated below.
- 4. The applicant has not shown a personal appearance, with or without counsel, would materially add to the Board's understanding of the issues involved.

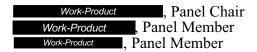
RECOMMENDATION

The pertinent military records of the Department of the Air Force relating to APPLICANT be corrected to show twenty (20) days of leave be restored to her current leave balance.

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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-2023-03332 in Executive Session on March 2024:



All members voted to correct the record. The panel considered the following:

Exhibit A: Application, DD Form 149, w/atchs, dated 5 October 2023.

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

Exhibit C: Advisory opinion, AFPC/DPMSSM, dated 30 November 2023.

Exhibit D: Notification of advisory, SAF/MRBC to applicant, dated 8 December 2023.

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.

4/5/2024

