

**UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS****RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS****IN THE MATTER OF:**

Work-Product

**DOCKET NUMBER:** BC-2023-03488**COUNSEL:** Work-Product**HEARING REQUESTED:** Work-Pro...**APPLICANT'S REQUEST**

1. His pay records and any other records be adjusted to reflect the 10 percent increase in retirement pay, retroactive to 1 October 1986 based on award of the Airman's Medal.
2. He be paid any difference in pay that he did not receive due to the 10 percent increase.

**APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS**

He was awarded the Airman's Medal by Special Order Work-Prod... on Work-Product. Before retiring 1 October 1986, he was not informed about the 10 percent increase in retirement pay provided by this medal. He recently learned about this through a comment by another retiree on an Air Force Facebook page. He is requesting that his retirement pay records and any other applicable records be adjusted to reflect the 10 percent increase, effective 1 October 1986, when he retired. He also requests to be paid any difference in pay that he did not receive due to the 10 percent increase. He needs assistance in correcting his pay records at Defense Finance Accounting Service, as this should have been done at the time of his retirement. No one informed or counseled him about the 10 percent increase in his retirement pay before he retired. If he had known, he would have pursued it, as the extra money would have made a difference while raising a family on retired pay. Clearly, this was not his fault. He feels his request has merit and deserves to be approved.

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit A.

**STATEMENT OF FACTS**

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

On Work-Product, Special Order Work-Product, was published, which indicates the applicant was awarded the Airman's Medal for heroism involving risk of life under conditions other than those of conflict with an armed enemy of the United States.

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

**AIR FORCE EVALUATION**

AFPC/DP2STM (Military Retirement/Separations Section) recommends denying the applicant's request for a 10 percent increase in retirement pay as he has not presented any evidence of an error or injustice. 10 USC §8991 provides for an additional 10 percent increase in retired pay for enlisted members credited with extraordinary heroism. This increase is not automatic for all retired

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members who have been awarded a decoration for heroism; instead, the Secretary of the Air Force is responsible for determining what constitutes "extraordinary heroism."

To compute retired pay, the monthly retired pay of a member is calculated by multiplying the member's retired pay base by the retired pay multiplier. If a member retired under section 8914 has been credited with extraordinary heroism by the Secretary of the Air Force, their retired pay is increased by 10 percent, but not exceeding 75 percent of the retired pay base.

The Secretary's determination as to extraordinary heroism is conclusive. Enlisted members awarded the Medal of Honor, the Air Force Cross, or equivalent decorations are automatically credited with the additional retired pay. For those awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross (non-combat for heroism only), the Silver Star, the Airman's Medal, or equivalent decorations, a determination of extraordinary heroism by the Secretary is required.

Since 1969, Airmen who receive these decorations automatically have their awards considered for extraordinary heroism and the additional 10 percent retirement pay adjustment at the time of award approval. If the awards are approved for the increase, the authorization would be included in the order accompanying the citation. If the orders do not contain such authorization, it can be concluded that the acts did not meet the threshold for "extraordinary heroism." This determination is conclusive for all purposes.

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 15 April 2024 for comment (Exhibit D) but has received no response.

## **FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION**

1. The application was not timely filed. The Board 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 36-2603, *Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records (AFBCMR)*. The Board does not find it in the interest of justice to waive the three-year filing requirement.
2. The applicant exhausted all other available administrative remedies 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/DP2STM and finds a preponderance of the evidence does not substantiate the applicant's contentions. Accordingly, based on the presumption of regularity, the Secretary of the Air Force would have considered the applicant's actions and determined they were not extraordinarily heroic, rendering him ineligible for the 10 percent increase in pay. The Board finds no evidence of an injustice or error in the applicant's retirement pay record to warrant granting relief. 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-2023-03488 in Executive Session on 19 July 2024:

*Work-Product* [REDACTED], Panel Chair  
*Work-Product* [REDACTED], Panel Member  
*Work-Product* [REDACTED], Panel Member

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

- Exhibit A: Application, DD Form 149, dated 20 October 2023.
- Exhibit B: Documentary evidence, including relevant excerpts from official records.
- Exhibit C: Advisory Opinion, AFPC/DP2STM, dated 11 April 2024.
- Exhibit D: Notification of Advisory, SAF/MRBC to Applicant, dated 15 April 2024.

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.

9/27/2025

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Associate Director, AFBCMR

Signed by: USAF