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

### RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2023-01037

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COUNSEL: NONE

HEARING REQUESTED: NO

### APPLICANT'S REQUEST

He receives a Zone B, multiple 4.5 Selective Retention Bonus (SRB) with his 28 January 2022 reenlistment for 4 years and 13 months.

### APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS

He has left the Interservice Physician Assistant Program (IPAP) and believes he should receive the SRB now that he was returned to his previous career field, 1Z371 that was authorized the zone B SRB.

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit A.

### STATEMENT OF FACTS

The applicant is a currently serving Air Force technical sergeant (E-6).

On 28 January 2022, according to DD Form 4, *Enlistment/Reenlistment Document – Armed Forces of the United States*, the applicant reenlisted in the Air Force in the grade of E-6 technical sergeant for a period of 4 years and 13 months. The applicant's previous military service upon reenlistment reflects 8 years, 10 months, and 23 days.

On 28 January 2022, according to AF IMT 901, *Reenlistment Eligibility Annex to DD Form 4*, the applicant signed section V of the form acknowledging his eligibility in the zone B multiple 4.5 SRB in his 1Z371 career field. He also initialed section VI which states he elected not to receive the SRB with his 28 January 2022 reenlistment with the understanding, he would not have any further opportunity to receive this bonus, may be ineligible for a future bonus in this zone, must meet all the requirements for any future SRB if offered, and that this decision was irrevocable.

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 denying the application. The applicant's career field (1Z371) had a zone B multiple 4.5 SRB, however, he was not eligible for this SRB as he was not reenlisting for continued service in the 1Z371 career field, but for retainability for his orders into the IPAP. AFI 36-2606, *Reenlistment and Extension of Enlistment in the United States Air Force*, paragraph

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Controlled by: SAF/MRB

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Limited Dissemination Control: N/A

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4.1.1 states “Airmen do not qualify for the SRB if the Airmen reenlist or extend enlistments for any purpose other than continued active service in the SRB skill.”

The referenced guidance is written this way with the intention not to pay airmen for reenlisting without the intent to spend the full SRB commitment in the authorized career field. Other airmen who decline the SRB on the AF Form 901 and then get returned to their career field for any reason, do not get to receive the SRB that was denied. The applicant included guidance from the Army to support his request to receive the SRB now, but this guidance applies to Army Soldiers (as stated) not Air Force Airmen.

There is no evidence of an error or injustice based on the documentation provided by the applicant and analysis of the facts. Per Air Force policy, airmen who reenlist or extend for any reason other than continued service in the SRB career field are not eligible for the SRB with that reenlistment or extension. Additionally, Section VI of the AF Form 901 ensures the airmen understands they cannot receive the SRB for any reason once they decide to decline it. To approve the applicant’s request would not be fair to the other airmen that decline an SRB for any reason and are not later afforded the opportunity to receive the SRB when they return to the career field. All requests of this nature are disapproved and many of these airmen are in very similar situations to the applicant’s. Although approval would not be equitable and against Air Force policy, approval language will be to provide a prorated amount of the zone B SRB. The applicant did not serve in the 1Z371 career field from his reenlistment date 28 January 2022 through 17 January 2023, the date when he was reassigned back to 1Z371; his 4 SRB would have been paid from the date of reenlistment through 27 January 2026. Although he had another 13 months of obligated service with this reenlistment, SRBs are not paid for the obligated service period.

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 23 May 2023 for comment (Exhibit D), and the applicant replied on 20 June 2023. In his response, the applicant contended while at Interservice Physician Assistant Program (IPAP), the SRB that he turned down showed up in his account due to a mistake. He immediately contacted finance and informed them of the error, and they retrieved the money. The regulations that state he must reenlist with the intent of serving in the SRB career field also states that upon serving over half of an enlistment in the SRB career field, a member can keep what SRB funding they have received even if they leave said career field. By the time his current enlistment is up, he would have served 85 percent of his current enlistment in the SRB career field.

When he was accepted to IPAP and was told that he had to reenlist, he asked what to do regarding the SRB. He was given mixed messages, as some said to take the bonus and if it’s wrong finance will eventually find out and claim it. He chose to hunt down the Air Force and Army regulations and talk with his leadership instead. The SRB showed up in his account and he reached out to finance to fix the mistake. During each step of this process, he has shown integrity, even though it cost his family. He has put the military’s needs ahead of his own.

The applicant’s complete response is at Exhibit E.

#### **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 AFPC/DPMSSM 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-2023-01037 in Executive Session on 11 July 2023:

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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 March 2023.
- Exhibit B: Documentary evidence, including relevant excerpts from official records.
- Exhibit C: Advisory Opinion, AFPC/DPMSSM, dated 15 May 2023.
- Exhibit D: Notification of Advisory, SAF/MRBC to Applicant, dated 23 May 2023.
- Exhibit E: Applicant's Response, dated 20 June 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.

8/11/2025

X

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Signed by:

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