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

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

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DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2024-00768

COUNSEL: NONE

HEARING REQUESTED: NO

APPLICANT’S REQUEST

He be promoted to the grade of airman first class (E-4).

APPLICANT’S CONTENTIONS

He and three white friends graduated from high school in 1956 during segregation. The four of them enlisted in the Air Force together and each served in different roles throughout their four-year terms. However, he is the only one of the four who was not promoted to E-4 while serving as a high frequency ground communications technician at two North American Defense stations.

His Air Force records were not properly updated during his service, and he was informed that most of his records were later destroyed in a fire at the records archive center.

The applicant’s complete submission is at Exhibit A.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The applicant is a former Air Force airman second class (E-3).

On 31 May 1956, according to DD Form 214, *Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge*, the applicant entered the Regular Air Force. On 23 May 1960, he was honorably discharged in the grade of E-3, with an effective date of rank of 1 December 1957, and a narrative reason for separation of “Insufficient Retainability for PCS” (permanent change of station). He was credited with 3 years, 11 months and 23 days of total active service and 1 year, 1 month, and 21 days of Foreign and/or Sea Service.

On 6 March 2024, the Board staff requested the applicant’s military human resources record from the National Personnel Records Center. The applicant’s record was received on 26 March 2024, containing very limited documentation.

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

APPLICABLE AUTHORITY

AFBCMR Docket Number BC-2024-00768

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Department of the Air Force Instruction (DAFI) 36-2603, *Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records (AFBCMR)*, paragraph 2.4 states, “The Board normally decides cases on the written evidence contained in the record. It is not an investigative body; therefore, the applicant bears the burden of providing evidence of an error or injustice.”

AIR FORCE EVALUATION

AFPC/DPMSPP (Enlisted Promotions) recommends denying the application. Based on a review of the applicant’s limited military personnel record and documentation provided, there is no evidence of an error or injustice. According to AFR 39-29, *Promotion of Airman*, dated 31 March 1954, commanders of major air commands are responsible for promoting airmen of their commands, including procedures and functions pertaining thereto. Airmen may be considered for promotion only when they meet the following requirements: (1) Airmen must have an awarded Air Force Specialty; (2) Meet time-in-grade requirements. As an E-3, the minimum time-in-grade for promotion to E-4 was 8 months.

The applicant was promoted to E-3 on 1 December 1957 and appears to have met basic eligibility requirements. However, based on limited military personnel records, they are unable to verify whether a disciplinary action or any other factor prevented the applicant’s promotion to E-4. Nor are they able to verify whether the applicant was recommended, considered or promoted to E-4.

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 11 February 2025 for comment (Exhibit D) but 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 DAFI 36-2603.
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/DPMSPP and finds a preponderance of the evidence does not substantiate the applicant’s contention that he should be promoted to E-4. According to DAFI 36-2603, applicants bear the responsibility of providing evidence to support their claim of an error or injustice. While the applicant’s record is limited, documentation from his record appears to indicate he met basic eligibility requirements for promotion. However, there is insufficient evidence in the applicant’s military personnel record and the documentation provided with his application to warrant his request for promotion to E-4. There is no evidence the applicant was considered, recommended, or promoted to E-4 by the promotion authority, nor is there evidence that the absence of promotion to E-4 was erroneous or unjust. 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 DAFI 36-2603, paragraph 2.1, considered Docket Number BC-2024-00768 in Executive Session on 29 May 2025:

- 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 Forms 149, w/atchs, dated 9 February and 24 September 2024.
- Exhibit B: Documentary evidence, including relevant excerpts from official records.
- Exhibit C: Advisory Opinion, AFPC/DPMSPP, w/atchs, dated 11 February 2025.
- Exhibit D: Notification of Advisory, SAF/MRBC to Applicant, dated 11 February 2025.

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.

10/29/2025

X

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Board Operations Manager, AFBCMR
Signed by: USAF