



Work-Product

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

### RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2024-01531

Work-Product

COUNSEL: NONE

HEARING REQUESTED: NO

### APPLICANT'S REQUEST

She be allowed to transfer her Post-9/11 GI Bill Transfer of Education Benefits (TEB) to her dependents.

### APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS

She initiated the TEB in 2016. She was a reservist at the time and was not using her military email daily. Further, she was not told there would be a second step to finalize the transfer request. She reapplied in October. This was an honest mistake, and she would appreciate the Board's consideration in this matter so she can retire soon rather than serving four additional years.

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit A.

### STATEMENT OF FACTS

The applicant is a currently serving Air Force Reserve (AFR) lieutenant colonel (O-5).

On 11 December 1998, according to DD Form 4, *Enlistment/Reenlistment Document Armed Forces of the United States*, the applicant enlisted in the AFR in the grade of E-2.

On 13 August 2001, according to Reserve Order **Work-Prod...**, dated 9 August 2001, the applicant was appointed as a Reserve of the Air Force in the grade of second lieutenant, Ready Reserve AA.

On 29 June 2016, as noted in the documents provided by AFPC/DP3SA, the applicant applied for TEB and on 27 February 2017, the TEB application was rejected because she did not secure the required retainability or complete the SOU.

On 9 October 2023, as noted in the documents provided by AFPC/DP3SA, the applicant reapplied for TEB and on 11 October 2023 the TEB application was approved with an obligation end date of 8 October 2027.

On 11 October 2023, the applicant signed a DAF Form 4406, *Post-9/11 GI Bill Transfer of Educational Benefits Statement of Understanding*, acknowledging she would incur a service obligation of four years and her Selected Reserve Service Commitment (SRSC) would be updated in her records. The Reserve Component date reflects 8 October 2027.

According to the Retrieval Applications Web (RAW), the applicant's AFR mandatory separation date reflects 1 September 2029.

**AFBCMR Docket Number BC-2024-01531**

Work-Product

Work-Product

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

### **APPLICABLE AUTHORITY/GUIDANCE**

DoDI 1341.13, *Post-9/11 GI Bill*, Enclosure 3, Paragraph 3, dated 31 May 2013 states: Any service member on or after 1 August 2009, who is entitled to the Post-9/11 GI Bill at the time of the approval of his or her request to transfer that entitlement under this section, may transfer that entitlement provided he or she has at least 10 years of service in the Military Services (active duty or Selected Reserve) on the date of approval, is precluded by either standard policy (Service or DoD) statute from committing to four additional years, and agrees to serve for the maximum amount of time allowed by such policy or statute. (Note that this provision uses the same language as AFI 36-2649, *Voluntary Education Program*, paragraph A13.18.1.1.2 paragraph 3.a.(2)). The effect of this paragraph is the elimination of the retainability requirement for members who have at least 10 years of service, who are subject to early separation due to policy or statute, and who agree (or would have agreed) to serve the maximum time allowed.

### **AIR FORCE EVALUATION**

ARPC/DPAT recommends denying the application. Based on the documentation provided by the applicant and analysis of the facts, there is no evidence of an error or injustice. The applicant did not complete the required SOU.

The Benefits for Education Administrative Services Tool (BEAST) system indicates the applicant submitted a TEB request on 29 June 2016. The ARPC Education Services Technician denied the TEB request on 27 February 2017 with a Reject Reason Code "C" which meant the applicant did not commit to the required additional service time. The applicant's myFSS historical records indicate she received multiple notifications on the following dates: 26 July 2016, 9 September 2016, 18 October 2016, and 29 November 2016. All these notifications were sent before the application was closed and rejected on 27 February 2017, informing the applicant that signing the Statement of Understanding (SOU) was necessary for the TEB approval process.

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 20 June 2024 for comment (Exhibit D), and the applicant replied on 25 June 2024. In her response, the applicant contended the system did not explain the process anywhere on the site. During the time, she was on mandatory orders. She submitted the request and assumed the process was complete. When the emails were sent requesting her to finish the process - she was not on orders. The follow-up emails were sent to her military email and not her home email; therefore, she did not receive the communication. She was unaware until last year that her benefits did not transfer. She has served 22 years, and is requesting grace for her lack of awareness to the process. Had her benefits been transferred in 2016, she would have already served past her service requirement. She is prepared to serve four more years if her request is denied; however, it would allow her the flexibility to retire now if need be due to life/health circumstances.

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 ARPC/DPAT 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-2024-01531 in Executive Session on 24 September 2024:

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 Form 149, w/atch, dated 29 April 2024.
- Exhibit B: Documentary evidence, including relevant excerpts from official records.
- Exhibit C: Advisory Opinion, ARPC/DPAT, w/atchs, dated 12 June 2024.
- Exhibit D: Notification of Advisory, SAF/MRBC to Applicant, dated 20 June 2024.
- Exhibit E: Applicant's Response dated 25 June 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.

4/8/2025

Work-Product