



Work-Product

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

### RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2024-01777

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COUNSEL: NONE

HEARING REQUESTED: NO

### APPLICANT'S REQUEST

His terminal leave (TL) lost at the beginning of the Fiscal Year (FY) be returned and the debt caused by the loss be refunded.

### APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS

A finance retirement counselor informed him he had 84 days of TL available to take when he out-processed. He submitted this request, which was approved by both his leadership and finance. However, the counselor failed to inform him taking leave before the end of the FY was essential to avoid losing accrued leave due to the FY rollover, a requirement that should have been communicated. The FY was not considered in the calculations, which has caused significant hardship for him and his family, depleting his savings entirely. The error was only identified by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) when they attempted to resolve the leave issue.

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit A.

### STATEMENT OF FACTS

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

On 8 Feb 23, according to AF Form 988, *Leave Request/Authorization*, provided by the applicant, he requested and was approved for 20 days of permissive temporary duty (PTDY) leave for the period of 17 Sep 23 through 6 Oct 23, and was issued leave authorization number **Work-Product**. On that same day, according to AF Form 988, provided by the applicant, he requested and was approved for 86 days of TL for the period of 7 Oct 23 through 31 Dec 23, and was issued leave authorization number **Work-Product**.

On 31 Dec 23, according to DD Form 214, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*, the applicant was furnished an honorable discharge with narrative reason for separation of Sufficient Service for Retirement and was credited with 20 years and 15 days of active service.

On 26 Jan 24, according to an email provided by the applicant, he was notified of an error with his leave by his local finance office.

According to a memorandum, dated 5 Apr 24, provided by the applicant, DFAS notified him regarding a debt he owed due to the leave he took from 6 Oct 23 – 30 Dec 23, resulting in a negative leave balance of 20.5 days which included a non-accrual of 2 days. He was not entitled to pay and allowances during periods of negative leave. He was instructed to pay the debt within 30 days, or his account would be considered past due and/or delinquent.

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On 16 Apr 24, according to an email provided by the applicant, he contacted his local finance office notifying them of the debt claim memorandum he had received from DFAS.

On 17 Apr 24, according to an email provided by the applicant, the local finance office notified the applicant of the Case Management System number [Work-Product] they had established and forwarded to the Air Force Personnel Center for assistance with his leave/debt issue.

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 (Special Programs), recommends granting the application. Based on the documentation provided by the applicant and analysis of the facts, there is sufficient evidence of an error or injustice. The applicant was misinformed by finance of how many days he would be entitled to for TL and was not made aware he could only carryover 60 days of leave into the next FY.

The applicant had a leave balance of 59 days. On 8 Feb 23, he requested 27 days of advanced leave. He was misinformed by finance that he would have 84 days of leave he was authorized to use for TL. The applicant submitted PTDY leave for house hunting starting on 17 Sep 23, ending on 6 Oct 23 with TL immediately afterwards starting on 7 Oct 23, ending on 31 Dec 23, which finance approved on the AF Form 988. With the applicant having a leave balance of 59 days and 27 days of advanced leave would have totaled 86 days. However, finance failed to mention that carryover could only cover 60 days into the new FY. The applicant earned 7.5 days in the new FY which totaled to 67.5 days; however, he took 86 days that resulted in 18.5 days of excess leave with a 2-day penalty for nonaccrual leave.

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 2 Jul 24 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.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

The pertinent military records of the Department of the Air Force relating to APPLICANT be corrected to show 18.5 days of leave be restored and he be authorized reimbursement of debt paid to DFAS for erroneous leave.

## **CERTIFICATION**

**AFBCMR Docket Number BC-2024-01777**

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-2024-01777 in Executive Session on 11 Feb 25:

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III, Panel Chair  
Panel Member  
Panel Member

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

- Exhibit A: Application, DD Form 149, w/atchs, dated 13 May 24.
- Exhibit B: Documentary evidence, including relevant excerpts from official records.
- Exhibit C: Advisory opinion, AFPC/DPMSSM, dated 17 Jun 24.
- Exhibit D: Notification of advisory, SAF/MRBC to applicant, dated 2 Jul 24.

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.

3/19/2025

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