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UNITED STATES AIR FORCE BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2024-01874

Work-Product

COUNSEL: NONE

HEARING REQUESTED: NO

APPLICANT'S REQUEST

He be considered for promotion by a special selection board (SSB) for the (P0422E) CY22E Major Line of the Air Force – Air Operations and Special Warfare (LAF-A) Central Selection Board (CSB).

APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS

Although he exercised his due diligence, his attempt to ensure his record was updated to reflect award of the Air and Space Commendation Medal with one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster (ASCOM w/1 BOLC prior to the selection board cut-off date was unsuccessful. Therefore, the award was not available to be viewed by the promotion selection board.

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit A.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The applicant is a currently serving Air Force captain (O-3).

On 28 Nov 23, the applicant met and was a non-select for promotion to the grade of major (O-4) by the P0423E LAF-A CSB.

According to DAF Form 2224D, *Air and Space Commendation Medal*, Special Order Work-Product dated 7 May 24, reflects the applicant was awarded the ASCOM w/1 BOLC for the period of 22 May 21 to 29 Dec 22, with a "Given Under My Hand Date (GUMHD)" of 7 May 24. On the same date, according to a screenshot from the Automated Records Management System (ARMS) web application, the award was placed in his ARMS record.

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

APPLICABLE AUTHORITY/GUIDANCE

Background: Historically the "GUMHD" is the date the approving official signed the approved decoration, thus making it a matter of record. While AFI 36-2803, *The Air Force Military Awards and Decorations Program*, dated 18 Dec 13, with incorporated changes dated 8 Feb 18, is absent information regarding a "GUMHD," DAFMAN 36-2806, *Military Awards: Criteria and Procedures*, dated 27 Oct 22, which replaced AFI 36-2803 states in Attachment 4, *Preparation and Distribution of Certificates, Citations and Special Orders*, Paragraph A4.2.2. states' The

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“GUMHD” on the certificate is the date the award was approved. This will not be a future date. In this case the “GUMHD” was not signed until, 7 May 24 after the date the board convened on 28 Nov 23 and therefore, was not considered by the board. However, the applicant’s argument is the inclusive period of the award (or the act and achievement) was prior to the date the board convened and should now be considered material information that was not previously considered and warrants an SSB.

AFPC/DP3SP (Recognitions) and AFPC/DPMSSP (Officer Promotions), have recently changed their stance on correcting the “GUMHD.” In the past, cases have been closed for “Failure to Exhaust Remedies” and applicants were told they must first request an amendment to the “GUMHD” from the approval authority, who may approve or deny based on the circumstances. However, after further review of the regulation, AFPC has now advised the “GUMHD” is unamendable by the approval authority. In addition, via e-mail dated, 16 Mar 20, titled “Policy guidance needed for Decorations – “GUMHD,” HAF/A1 confirmed the “GUMHD” is the date the commander approves the decoration, which is also the same for all Sister Services, Joint Staff and DoD. As such, the AFBCMR is the only option the applicant has to request a change to the “GUMHD.”

Regulation Guidance:

AFI 36-2803, *The Air Force Military Awards and Decorations Program*, dated 18 Dec 13, incorporating changes 8 Feb 18.

2.2.2. Submit decoration recommendations in a timely manner. Should the member be nonrecommended for a decoration, the DECOR6 should be signed and returned to the commander no later than 10 duty days prior to MPS or other established suspense. Should the member be recommended for a decoration, complete a decoration recommendation as soon as possible following the act or achievement; or before the period of service. Due to statutory time limitations, each recommendation for a decoration (except for the PH) must be placed into official channels within 2 years of the date of the act or achievement, or last day of the period of service, and final action (approval/disapproval, upgrade/downgrade) must be done within 3 years of the act, achievement, or service performed. However, to meet the objective of prompt recognition (“Pin ‘Em Where You Win ‘Em” philosophy), supervisors must not delay in submitting a decoration to the point of 2 years from the act, achievement, or service, since this may impact other critical personnel matters. (T-3).

AFMAN 36-2806, *The Air Force Military Awards and Decorations Program*, dated 10 June 2019,

A3.31.2: Recommendations are formally entered into official military channels within 3 years and awarded within 5 years of the termination date of the act, achievement, or service performed.

A4.3.2. It is highly recommended units support the Air Force “Pin ‘Em Where You Win ‘Em” practice which promotes timely approval and presentation of decorations to members prior to departing the organization, unless the member specifically requests otherwise.

DAFMAN 36-2806, *Military Awards: Criteria and Procedure*, dated 27 Oct 22

3.2.2. Recommendations are formally entered into official military channels within 3 years and awarded within 5 years of the termination date of the act, achievement, or service performed. (T-0). However, it is DAF’s goal that nominations for valor decorations be initiated within 90 days of the act justifying the award.

A4.8. Correcting a Decoration. Approval authorities may correct a certificate, citation, special order, or combined certificate and special order when discrepancies are identified and/or when

special order amendments change information on the elements. For example, if a special order amendment changes the inclusive dates of a decoration, the approval authority who approved the decoration may correct the certificate and citation to match the changes.

2.26.1. It is highly recommended units support the “Pin ‘Em Where You Win ‘Em” practice which promotes timely approval and presentation to members prior to departing the organization, unless the member specifically requests otherwise

AFI 36-2501, *Officer Promotions and Selective Continuation*:

1.3.1.3. Flows Officer Preselection Briefs (OPB) for eligible officers to the MPFs approximately 140 days before the board convenes.

2.10. Writing Letters to a Board.

2.10.2. Eligible officers may provide relevant attachments to their letters, with the following limitations. HQ AFPC/DPSOO advises officers when letters and/or attachments do not meet the above requirements and will not be presented to the board.

2.10.2.3. Attachments or documents that can become a permanent part of the officer's record (e.g., PRFs considered by previous boards, draft/proposed PRFs, draft/proposed OPRs, and decoration narratives) are not permitted; and

2.11. What Information Meets the Board.

2.11.1. The name and officer selection record (OSR), outlined in AFI 36-2608, *Military Personnel Records System*, of each eligible officer, including the Officer Selection Brief (OSB).

AFI 36-2608, *Military Personnel Records Systems*, dated 16 Apr 21

1.2.3. Electronic Officer Selection Record. This group contains all officer performance reports, citations for decorations, and any required adverse documentation outlined in paragraph 2.2.2.3.

2.2.2.2. Citations for Decorations. Place citations for all awarded decorations listed in AFMAN 36-2806, *Awards and Memorialization Program* (or equivalent from another military service). Use a copy of the special order that awarded the decoration only if a citation is missing.

According to AFI 36-2501, *Officer Promotions and Selective Continuation*, Chapter 6, *Special Selection Boards*

6.3. Conditions That May Warrant an SSB. Grant SSBs for promotion to the grade of captain through colonel based on:

6.3.1. Legal, Administrative, and Material Errors. Acting on behalf of the SECAF, HQ AFPC/DPPP and HQ AFPC/DPPPO can direct an SSB for an officer if it is determined:

6.3.1.2. The board did not consider material information that should have been available in compliance with pertinent Air Force directives and policies.

6.3.2. Pursuant to Formal Appeal. The AFBCMR can grant SSBs when they determine an officer's nonselection for promotion resulted because of an error or injustice in the officer's record.

6.5.2. Consider the records of officers as they would have appeared to the original board had the officers been properly considered. Compare the officers' records with benchmark records from the original boards (paragraph 3.3.3).

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 a careful review of the applicant's contentions and the available evidence of record, the Board is not convinced the applicant has provided sufficient evidence to conclude that he is the victim of an error or injustice. While the applicant claims his decoration was missing from his record and failed to be considered by the promotion selection board, the applicant did not provide compelling evidence he exhausted his due diligence to ensure the award was signed and placed in his record prior to the convening date of the promotion selection board, nor did he provide compelling evidence of an administrative delay in the processing of the decoration outside the normal award processing timeline. Therefore, the Board finds the applicant's situation to be no different from other similarly situated officers. In view of the foregoing, the Board recommends against correcting the applicant's record.

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-2024-01874 in Executive Session on 24 Sep 24:

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Panel Chair

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Panel Member

Panel Member

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

Exhibit A: Application, DD Form 149, w/atch, dated 22 May 24.

Exhibit B: Documentary evidence, including relevant excerpts from official records.

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.

4/15/2025

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