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UNITED STATES AIR FORCE BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2024-02066

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COUNSEL: NONE

HEARING REQUESTED: NO

APPLICANT'S REQUEST

The rank on his DD Form 214, *Armed Forces of the United States Report of Transfer or Discharge*, be changed from airman first class to sergeant.

APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS

He served in the Air Force from 1 Aug 62 to 28 Apr 67. When he was discharged, the rank on his DD Form 214 reflects airman first class (E-4). In 1967, the rank title for E-4 changed from airman first class to sergeant. After separation, he transferred to the Air Force Reserve until Jul 68. When he was discharged from the Reserve, the rank on his discharge order reflects sergeant. He would like the rank on his DD Form 214 changed to the proper rank of sergeant.

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit A.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The applicant is an honorably discharged Air Force airman first class (E-4).

On 1 Oct 65, according to [Work-Product], the applicant was promoted to airman first class.

On 28 Apr 67, according to DD Form 214, the applicant was released from active duty and transferred to the Air Force Reserve in the rank and grade of airman first class/E-4. He was credited with 4 years, 8 months and 28 days of active duty service.

On 31 Jul 68, according to [Work-Product], the applicant was honorably discharged from the Air Force Reserve in the rank and grade of sergeant/E-4.

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

APPLICABLE AUTHORITY/GUIDANCE

Title 10, United States Code, Section 1168: Discharge or release from active duty: limitation; DoDI 1336.01, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214/5 Series)*; AFI 36-3202, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty (DD Form 214/5 Series)*; DD Form 214 Total Force Personnel Services Delivery Guide. The DD Form 214 is prepared in

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accordance with the aforementioned publications and is used to record qualifying active duty service. The DD Form 214 reflects the active duty grade held at the time of separation.

AIR FORCE EVALUATION

AFPC/DPMSPP (Enlisted Promotions) recommends denying the application. Based on the documentation provided and analysis of the facts, there is no evidence of an error or injustice. According to documentation published by the Air Force Historical Research Agency, the airman first class/E-4 rank and grade was in effect from 1 Jun 58 through 18 Oct 67. On 19 Oct 67, authorization of the sergeant rank was approved when the Air Force changed the titles and terms of address for the first four grades, restoring noncommissioned officer status to the E-4 grade. On 19 Mar 91, the sergeant rank was terminated.

The applicant was discharged and transferred to the Air Force Reserve in the rank of airman first class, effective 28 Apr 67. His discharge occurred prior to the implementation of the change to the title of E-4 (sergeant); therefore, the rank of airman first class on his DD Form 214 is correct. According to the discharge order, dated 13 Aug 68, the applicant was discharged from the Reserve in the rank of sergeant. The discharge appears to be correct as the applicant served in the Reserve during the period in which the sergeant rank was authorized.

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 4 Sep 24 for comment (Exhibit D) but has 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 Department of the Air Force Instruction (DAFI) 36-2603, *Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records (AFBCMR)*.
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/DPMSPP and finds a preponderance of the evidence does not substantiate the applicant's contentions. The applicant was discharged in the rank/grade of airman first class/E-4 prior to the Air Force changing the rank title to sergeant. His DD Form 214 was prepared in accordance with the policy in effect at the time of his separation. 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

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The following quorum of the Board, as defined in DAFI 36-2603, paragraph 2.1, considered Docket Number BC-2024-02066 in Executive Session on 6 Feb 25:

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/atchs, dated 4 Jun 24.
- Exhibit B: Documentary evidence, including relevant excerpts from official records.
- Exhibit C: Advisory Opinion, AFPC/DPMSPP, w/atchs, dated 27 Aug 24.
- Exhibit D: Notification of Advisory, SAF/MRBC to Applicant, dated 4 Sep 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.

5/23/2025

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Board Operations Manager, AFBCMR

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