



Work-Product

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2024-02475

Work-Product

COUNSEL: NO

Work-Product

HEARING REQUESTED: NO

APPLICANT'S REQUEST

The name on her DD Form 214, *Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty*, be changed to reflect her current legal name.

APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS

She entered the Air Force under MEB, got married while in service and changed her name to MEK. She divorced on 15 Dec 98 and legally changed her name to GB on 26 Feb 99. She would like this request approved so that she can apply for Department Veterans Affairs benefits. She never thought she would need to apply for DVA benefits but she has severe tinnitus and hearing loss due to serving in the Air Force and she worked and lived next to a flight line. Even inside buildings the jet engine noise was tremendously loud.

The applicant's complete submission is at Exhibit A.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The applicant is an honorably discharged Air Force staff sergeant (E-5).

The applicant served in the Air Force from 20 Sep 74 to 7 Dec 79, under the names MEB and MEK.

On 26 Feb 99, the applicant obtained a court order to change her name to GB.

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

APPLICABLE AUTHORITY/GUIDANCE

Air Force policy does not authorize the correction of records of former airmen to show name changes occurring after discharge (AFI 36-2608, *Military Personnel Records System*, Table A7.3 [Name Changes]). In particular, if the name appearing on the DD Form 214 was correct at the time it was created, the AFI would not allow a correction, even to reflect a subsequent, legal name change. The past practice of the Board has been to follow the AFI in all cases except those where the applicant seeks to revert to either a maiden name or the name under which he or she entered service, or the Board finds a particular injustice that warrants an exception to policy, such as noted below in the SAF/MR memorandum.

AFBCMR Docket Number BC-2024-02475

Work-Product

Work-Product

SAF/MR memorandum, *Guidance to the Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records*, dated 9 Mar 15, states that while the Board generally has the authority to correct an applicant's records to reflect a legal change to the applicant's name, it should exercise discretion in doing so. The DD Form 214 is primarily created for the benefit of the veteran to establish entitlements to various government programs, or in seeking employment with organizations that grant veteran's preferences. A DD Form 214 may constitute an injustice when the veteran asserts that presenting a DD Form 214 that lists the old name effectively requires a needlessly intrusive explanation of personal history. This type of injustice may arise in situations such as when the name change is transgender-related or associated with a divorce.

A complete copy of the SAF/MR memorandum is at Exhibit C.

APPLICANT'S REVIEW OF APPLICABLE AUTHORITY/GUIDANCE

The Board sent a copy of the SAF/MR memorandum to the applicant on 16 Dec 24, for comment (Exhibit D), but has received no response.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

1. The application was not timely filed.
2. The applicant exhausted all available non-judicial relief before applying to the Board.
3. After thoroughly reviewing all Exhibits, the Board concludes that the applicant is not the victim of an error or injustice. The Board finds the applicant has not established that presenting their DD Form 214 with the previous legal name effectively requires a needlessly intrusive explanation of personal history. The Board also notes the applicant did not file the application within three years after the alleged error or injustice was discovered, as required by Title 10, United States Code, Section 1552, and Department of the Air Force Instruction 36-2603, *Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records* (AFBCMR). Moreover, the applicant has offered no plausible reason for the delay in filing the application. The Board finds the application untimely and concludes it would not be in the interest of justice to excuse the delay. Therefore, the Board recommends against correcting the applicant's records.

RECOMMENDATION

The Board recommends informing the applicant the application was not timely filed; it would not be in the interest of justice to excuse the delay; 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-2024-02475 in Executive Session on 10 Apr 25:

Work-Product

, Panel Chair

Work-Product

, Panel Member

Work-Product

, Panel Member

AFBCMR Docket Number BC-2024-02475

Work-Product

Work-Pr...

Work-Product

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

Exhibit A: Application, DD Form 149, w/atchs, dated 26 Jun 24.

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

Exhibit C: Memorandum, SAF/MR, dated 9 Mar 15.

Exhibit D: Notification of Memorandum, SAF/MRBC to Applicant, dated 16 Dec 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.

7/14/2025

X

Work-Product

Work-Product

Board Operations Manager, AFBCMR

Signed by: USAF

AFBCMR Docket Number BC-2024-02475

Work-Product

3

Work-Pro...