



Work-Product

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

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2024-03124

Work-Product

COUNSEL: NONE

HEARING REQUESTED: NOT INDICATED

APPLICANT’S REQUEST

His Airman’s Medal (AmnM) awarded on 10 Mar 15 be amended to reflect “extraordinary heroism” with a 10 percent increase in retirement pay.

APPLICANT’S CONTENTIONS

On 10 Mar 15, he was awarded the AmnM for his heroic actions in rescuing three French military members from the aftermath of a crashed and burning aircraft. Despite his bravery and selflessness, the 10 percent retirement benefit was denied. The decision to deny the 10 percent retirement benefit was premature as the final report had not been completed.

A few months after receiving the AmnM, the French and Spanish Air Force determined his actions as seen in the video footage and based on direct testimony determined his actions were indeed heroic. This led to him being the first Air Force member to receive the French Legion of Honor since World War II. Additionally, as further proof of his heroic actions, he received the Spanish Cruz del Merito Aeronautico.

He requests the decision to deny him the 10 percent retirement benefit be reviewed in light of this new evidence.

The applicant’s complete submission is at Exhibit A.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The applicant is an Air Force technical sergeant (E-6).

According to Special Order *Work-Product* dated 10 Mar 15, the applicant was awarded the AmnM for heroism involving voluntary risk of life for his actions on 26 Jan 15. The order contains the following statement, “The approved individual for the award of THE AIRMAN’S MEDAL has been considered and disapproved for an additional 10 percent for retirement purposes in accordance by the decoration approval authority, the Secretary of the Air Force Personnel Council, and AFI 36-2803, paragraph 1.6.2.2.”

On 15 Jun 15, by decree of the President of the French Republic, Grand Master of the Order of the Legion of Honor, the applicant was promoted to the rank of Knight in the Order of the Legion of Honor.

On 7 Jul 15, the applicant was awarded the Chevalier de la Legion D’Honneur by the French government and he was awarded the Cruz del Merito Aeronautico con Distintivo Amarillo by the Spanish government.

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Controlled by: SAF/MRB
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Limited Dissemination Control: N/A
POC: SAF.MRBC.Workflow@us.af.mil

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

AIR FORCE EVALUATION

SAF/MRBP recommends granting the request. The Secretary of the Air Force Decorations Board (SecAF DB) found sufficient evidence to indicate the act under review constituted "extraordinary heroism" and therefore warrants award of a 10 percent increase in retirement pay, provided he attain eligibility for retirement under a qualifying statute. On 10 Mar 15, SecAF DB originally reviewed the recommendation for the AmnM and concluded the applicant's actions warranted the AmnM but the evidence was not sufficient to conclude his actions constituted extraordinary heroism. On 18 Apr 25, SecAF DB convened to review the applicant's BCMR application and accompanying documentary and video evidence to determine whether or not this new evidence, if originally available, would have resulted in a different decision. After a thorough review of the evidence of record, the board concludes that had the SecAF DB had this evidence in 2015, it is more likely than not the board would have approved the AmnM and found the applicant's actions constitute extraordinary heroism.

Title 10, United States Code, Section 8991 relates to computation of military retired pay. Paragraph (a)(2) addresses the entitlement for an additional 10 percent of retired pay for certain enlisted members credited with extraordinary heroism as follows:

(2) Additional 10 percent for certain enlisted members credited with extraordinary heroism. If a member who is retired under section 8914 of this title has been credited by the Secretary of the Air Force with extraordinary heroism in the line of duty, the member's retired pay shall be increased by 10 percent of the amount determined under paragraph (1) (but to not more than 75 percent of the retired pay base upon which the computation of such retired pay is based). The Secretary's determination as to extraordinary heroism is conclusive for all purposes.

Therefore, SecAF DB recommends the applicant's record be corrected to reflect on 10 Mar 15, he was awarded the AmnM and that his actions constituted extraordinary heroism.

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 14 May 25 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 SAF/MRBP and finds a preponderance of the evidence substantiates the applicant's contentions. Specifically, the Board concurs with the SAF DB's finding that had the additional documentary and video evidence been available when the award was originally considered, the applicant's actions would have been more

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likely than not been found to constitute extraordinary heroism. Therefore, the Board recommends correcting the applicant’s record as indicated below.

4. The applicant has not shown a personal appearance, with or without counsel, would materially add to the Board’s understanding of the issues involved.

RECOMMENDATION

The pertinent military records of the Department of the Air Force relating to APPLICANT be corrected to show on 10 Mar 15, he was awarded the Airman’s Medal and his actions constituted extraordinary heroism per 10 U.S.C. § 8991.

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-2024-03124 in Executive Session on 26 Jun 25:

Work-Product Panel Chair
Work-Product Panel Member
Work-Product Panel Member

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

- Exhibit A: Application, DD Form 149, w/atchs, dated 18 Sep 24.
- Exhibit B: Documentary evidence, including relevant excerpts from official records.
- Exhibit C: Advisory opinion, SAF/MRBP, w/atchs, dated 9 May 25.
- Exhibit D: Notification of advisory, SAF/MRBC to applicant, dated 14 May 25.

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.

8/25/2025

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Board Operations Manager, AFBCMR
Signed by: USAF