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

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2024-03370

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COUNSEL: NO

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HEARING REQUESTED: NO

APPLICANT'S REQUEST

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

APPLICANT'S CONTENTIONS

After separation, he changed his name and has since changed his name again. He would like his previously updated DD Form 214 corrected to reflect his current legal name.

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 10 Apr 79 to 9 Apr 85, under the name AFE.

On 29 May 12, the applicant obtained a court order to change his name from AFE to ML.

On 5 Feb 20, the Board granted the applicant's request to correct his record to reflect his then legal name (ML).

On 26 Jul 23, the applicant obtained a new court order to change his name from ML to MS.

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

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service, or the Board finds a particular injustice that warrants an exception to policy, such as noted below in the SAF/MR memorandum.

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.

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 28 Jan 25 for comment (Exhibit D) but has received no response.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

1. The application was timely filed.
2. The applicant exhausted all other available administrative remedies 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 notes this is the applicant's second request to change the name on his DD Form 214. The Board concedes it erred in granting the initial request as it did not meet the established criteria for name changes. Specifically, the Board has historically granted such requests only in cases involving correction of a misspelled name, including wrong initials or nicknames rather than the full legal name, or when the applicant reverted to a name used when they initially entered service. The applicant's prior request did not meet any of these conditions, and its approval was inconsistent with Board precedent. In this case, the Board finds the applicant has not established that presenting his DD Form 214 with the previous legal name effectively requires a needlessly intrusive explanation of personal history. 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

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-2024-03370 in Executive Session on 6 Nov 25:

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Panel Chair

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Panel Member

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Panel Member

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

Exhibit A: Application, DD Form 149, w/atchs, dated 17 Sep 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 28 Jan 25.

Exhibit E: Prior AFBCMR Application and Decisional Documents, dated 18 Mar 20.

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.

12/9/2025

X

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Board Operations Manager, AFBCMR

Signed by: USAF

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