

ARMY BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 2 October 2024

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20230015205

APPLICANT REQUESTS: in effect, removal of the Humanitarian Service Medal (HSM) from her Army Military Human Resource Record (AMHRR). She also requests a personal appearance before the Board.

APPLICANT'S SUPPORTING DOCUMENT(S) CONSIDERED BY THE BOARD:

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- Orders: BG-227-0870, U.S. Army Installation Management Command, Headquarters, U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Bragg, NC, 15 August 2021
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Travel Order, U.S. Army Installation Management Command, Headquarters, U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Bragg, NC
- DA Form 31 (Request and Authority for Leave), 26 August 2021
- Orders 239-140, U.S. Army Installation Management Command, Headquarters, U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Bragg, NC, 27 August 2021
- Orders 239-141, U.S. Army Installation Management Command, Headquarters, U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Bragg, NC, 27 August 2021
- DA Form 31, 16 September 2021
- Memorandum for Record, Headquarters, U.S. Army North (Fifth Army) (ARNORTH), 5 June 2023

FACTS:

1. The applicant states, in effect:

a. She was recently awarded an HSM in her iPERMS for Operation Allies Refuge/Operation Allies Welcome (OAR/OAW). She was not officially assigned to ARNORTH (her current unit) during the dates of the award. She was actually deploying under the 82nd Airborne Division at the time. She has been trying to correct the discrepancy with her arrival date before the IPPS-A brown out. However, she was told that her last unit should have corrected it before she arrived. She suspects this is why she received the award, because of her "assignment date." She did not officially sign into ARNORTH until 15 September 2021. Technically, her assignment dates and the designated award under ARNORTH would be considered an erroneous award in her file. She does not want this award to become an issue in the future.

b. The error was caused due to her arrival date not being corrected in eMILPO. Due to IPPS-A brown out/cut over this issue had to be sent up to the help desk for correction since her S1 team is unable to fix this problem. Instead of verifying that personnel were actually in the unit at the time of OAW/OAR, someone sent the memo for signature and had it placed in their files. She reached out to her G1, and they informed her that she had to submit a notice to the Board to have the document removed. The message her G1 forwarded her states, once an official document has been properly filed in the Official Military Personnel File (OMPF), it is presumed to be administratively correct and to have been filed pursuant to an objective decision by competent authority.

2. The applicant is currently serving in the Regular Army in the rank/grade of captain/O-3. The applicant provides:

a. A Memorandum for Record dated 5 June 2023, from the Chief of Staff, Headquarters, ARNORTH, Subject: Award of military decorations recommendation and approval for Department of Defense Support. The 4-page memorandum is present in the applicant's OMPF which recommended her for award of the HSM for effective dates 1 July 2021 to 30 August 2021.

b. Orders: BG-227-0870, U.S. Army Installation Management Command, Headquarters, U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Bragg, 15 August 2021, and accompanied NATO Travel Order which ordered her to deploy in a Temporary Change of Station status on or about 15 August 2021. Deployment in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel – Kuwait.

c. DA 31 which shows she was on Permanent Change of Station leave and Proceed Time from 2 September 2021 to 15 September 2021.

d. Orders 239-140, U.S. Army Installation Management Command, Headquarters, U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Bragg, 27 August 2021, which rescinded any unused portion of Orders 056-465, 25 February 2021.

e. Orders 239-141, U.S. Army Installation Management Command, Headquarters, U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Bragg, 27 August 2021, which ordered her to a Permanent Change of Station to Denver, CO, reporting not later than 15 September 2021.

f. An incomplete DA 31 from Defense Coordinating Element Region VIII dated 16 September 2021, for house hunting.

4. By regulation (AR 600-8-104), the AMHRR is an umbrella term encompassing human resource records for Soldiers, retirees, veterans, and deceased personnel. It includes, but is not limited to, the official military personnel file, finance related documents, and non-service related documents deemed necessary to store by the

Army. It is archived in the iPERMS, which has been identified as a records management application for the Army. Awards, decorations, and medals are governed by AR 600-8-22 (Military Awards). Army policy, criteria, and administrative instructions concerning individual and unit military awards are outlined in AR 600-8-22. The AMHRR within iPERMS is the official records repository for military awards. Appendix B-1 (Required Document List), is a list of currently active forms and documents required for filing in the AMHRR and/or iPERMS. This regulation also provides that once filed such documents become a permanent part of the AMHRR and they may only be removed by one of several agencies, one of which is the ABCMR.

5. The HSM is awarded to members who, on or after 7 January 2016, the recipient must have contributed to and influenced the humanitarian operation while deployed to the designated area of eligibility for the humanitarian operation as defined by the Department of State request for assistance in areas outside the United States. When appropriate, the local commander may propose to the awarding authority specific clarification of designated boundaries based on the intent of the Department of State request for assistance. OAR (1 July to 30 August 2021) was approved by the Department of Defense as qualifying for award of the Humanitarian Service Medal. Service members who were physically present and provided direct humanitarian assistance to the evacuees during the transportation to and initial settlement at the following intermediated, safe haven locations: Qatar - Al Udeid Air Base, Camp as Sayliyah, and Camp Doha; Kuwait - Camp Buehring and Ali Al Salem Air Base; Shaikh Isa Air Base, Bahrain; United Arab Emirates - Abu Dhabi and Al Dahfra; Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia; Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo; Germany - Rhine Ordnance Barracks and Ramstein; Rota, Spain; Sigonella, Italy; Virginia- Chantilly, Dulles, Quantico, Fort Pickett, and Fort Lee; Fort Bliss, TX, Fort McCoy, WI; Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, NJ; Holloman Air Force Base, NM; and Tampa, FL.

6. Army Regulation 15-185 (ABCMR) states an applicant is not entitled to a hearing before the ABCMR. Hearings may be authorized by a panel of the ABCMR or by the Director of the ABCMR.

BOARD DISCUSSION:

1. The Board determined the evidence of record was sufficient to render a fair and equitable decision. As a result, a personal appearance hearing is not necessary to serve the interest of equity and justice in this case.
2. After reviewing the application, all supporting documents, and the evidence found within the military record, the Board found that relief was warranted. The applicant's contentions, the military record, and regulatory guidance were carefully considered. The applicant's official records contain a Memorandum for Record dated 5 June 2023, from

the Chief of Staff, HQ, ARNORTH, Subject: Award of military decorations recommendation and approval for DOD Support. The 4-page memorandum is present in the applicant's OMPF which recommended her for award of the HSM for the dates 1 July 2021 to 30 August 2021. The evidence shows she was not officially assigned to ARNORTH (her current unit) during the dates of the award. The applicant herself contends that she did not officially sign into ARNORTH until 15 September 2021. Thus, the Board accepted her argument and determined this award should be removed from her records.

BOARD VOTE:

Mbr 1 Mbr 2 Mbr 3

■	■	■	GRANT FULL RELIEF
:	:	:	GRANT PARTIAL RELIEF
:	:	:	GRANT FORMAL HEARING
:	:	:	DENY APPLICATION

BOARD DETERMINATION/RECOMMENDATION:

The Board determined the evidence presented is sufficient to warrant a recommendation for relief. As a result, the Board recommends that all Department of the Army records of the individual concerned be corrected by removing the Memorandum for Record dated 5 June 2023, from the Chief of Staff, Headquarters, ARNORTH, Subject: Award of military decorations recommendation and approval for Department of Defense Support from the applicant's service records.

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I certify that herein is recorded the true and complete record of the proceedings of the Army Board for Correction of Military Records in this case.

REFERENCES:

1. Army Regulation 600-8-104 (Army Military Human Resource Records Management), prescribes Army policy for the creation, utilization, administration, maintenance, and disposition of the AMHRR.

a. The AMHRR is an umbrella term encompassing human resource records for Soldiers, retirees, veterans, and deceased personnel. It includes, but is not limited to, the official military personnel file, finance related documents, and non-service related documents deemed necessary to store by the Army. It is archived in the iPERMS, which has been identified as a records management application for the Army.

b. Awards, decorations, and medals are governed by Army Regulation 600-8-22. Army policy, criteria, and administrative instructions concerning individual and unit military awards are outlined in Army Regulation 600-8-22. The AMHRR within iPERMS is the official records repository for military awards.

c. Appendix B-1, is a list of currently active forms and documents required for filing in the AMHRR and/or iPERMS. This regulation also provides that once filed such documents become a permanent part of the AMHRR and they may only be removed by one of several agencies, one of which is the ABCMR.

2. The HSM is awarded to members who, on or after 7 January 2016, the recipient must have contributed to and influenced the humanitarian operation while deployed to the designated area of eligibility for the humanitarian operation as defined by the Department of State request for assistance in areas outside the United States. When appropriate, the local commander may propose to the awarding authority specific clarification of designated boundaries based on the intent of the Department of State request for assistance.

a. The SECARMY is the approval authority for recommendations of the HSM originating with the Army. The ASA (M&RA) has the authority to disapprove recommendations for the HSM being forwarded to the SECARMY. Recommendations for the HSM involving unified combatant commands will be submitted to the Director, Joint Staff. Determination of eligibility for award of the HSM is delegated to the commander having operational control over the military assistance being provided in the humanitarian act or operation. This authority may not be delegated below Colonel/O-6 level commander. A list of approved operations for award of the HSM is available at <https://prhome.defense.gov/m-ra/inside-m-ra/mpp/oepm/>. OAR (1 July to 30 August 2021) was approved by the Department of Defense as qualifying for award of the Humanitarian Service Medal.

b. Service members who were physically present and provided direct humanitarian assistance to the evacuees during the transportation to and initial settlement at the following intermediated, safe haven locations: Qatar - Al Udeid Air Base, Camp as Sayliyah, and Camp Doha; Kuwait - Camp Buehring and Ali Al Salem Air Base; Shaikh Isa Air Base, Bahrain; United Arab Emirates - Abu Dhabi and Al Dahfra; Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia; Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo; Germany - Rhine Ordnance Barracks and Ramstein; Rota, Spain; Sigonella, Italy; Virginia- Chantilly, Dulles, Quantico, Fort Pickett, and Fort Lee; Fort Bliss, Texas; Fort McCoy, Wisconsin; Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst, New Jersey; Holloman Air Force Base, New Mexico, and Tampa, Florida.

3. Army Regulation 15-185 prescribes the policies and procedures for correction of military records by the Secretary of the Army, acting through the ABCMR. The ABCMR may, in its discretion, hold a hearing or request additional evidence or opinions. Additionally, it states in paragraph 2-11 that applicants do not have a right to a hearing before the ABCMR. The Director or the ABCMR may grant a formal hearing whenever justice requires. The ABCMR considers individual applications that are properly brought before it. The ABCMR will decide cases on the evidence of record. It is not an investigative body. The ABCMR begins its consideration of each case with the presumption of administrative regularity. The applicant has the burden of proving an error or injustice by a preponderance of the evidence.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//