

IN THE CASE OF: [REDACTED]

BOARD DATE: 27 January 2025

DOCKET NUMBER: AR20240004748

APPLICANT REQUESTS: payment of Specialized Training Assistance Program (STRAP) stipend.

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

- DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Record)
- Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) letter
- DA Form 71 (Oath of Office – Military Personnel), 1 June 2022
- DA Form 5536 (Agreement Health Professionals Loan Repayment Program (HPLRP))
- DA Form 5685 (New STRAP Service Agreement)
- U.S. Army Recruiting Command (USAREC) Form 601-37.48 (U.S. Army Reserve (USAR) and Army National Guard (ARNG) Incentives Declaration Statement)
- USAREC Form 601-37.24 (STRAP Enrollment Verification)
- Memorandum for Record, Subject: Acknowledgement of New STRAP Stipend and Contractual Obligation Captain (CPT) [REDACTED] (the applicant)
- USAREC Form 601-37.23 (Incentives Enrollment Data Sheet STRAP Stipend)
- Army Medical Department (AMEDD) Army Professional Medical Command (APMC) Memorandum, Subject: Adjustment to STRAP Contractual Service Obligation
- AMEDD APMC Memorandum, Subject: Request for Entitlement of STRAP Stipend Residency Payment – CPT [REDACTED] (the applicant)

FACTS:

1. The applicant states he requests to be paid his STRAP stipend which he is entitled but was not disbursed due to a confusion at the AMEDD APMC, the payment was sent to another Captain [REDACTED] by mistake.
2. A review of the applicant's service record shows:

- a. USAREC Form 601-37.48 dated 29 August 2018 shows the applicant requested to receive Medical/Dental School Stipend Program (MDSSP). He understood USAR and ARNG incentives may not be received concurrently, statement was not applicable to

STRAP stipend or HPLRP dual incentive program and any service obligation incurred by receipt of this incentive may not be served concurrently. He stated he was not serving or had not incurred a military service obligation from prior participation in:

- U.S. Army Health Professions Scholarship Program
- Financial Assistance Program
- Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences
- Reserve Officer's Training Corps
- HPLRP
- Government sponsored or non-sponsored Graduate Medical Education

b. USAREC Form 601-37.23 for MDSSP shows the applicant received his Doctor of Dental Surgery training at the [REDACTED] School of Dental Medicine during the period of 6 August 2018 through 13 May 2022. The MDSSP incentive was received during the period of 12 August 2019 through 13 May 2022 for a service obligation until 13 May 2028.

c. USAREC Form 601-37.24 dated 9 January 2019 shows the applicant was enrolled as a full time student at the [REDACTED] School of Dental Medicine in the area of study in Dental Medicine during the period of 6 August 2018 through 13 May 2022 which was verified by the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs.

d. On 28 October 2019, the applicant executed his oath of office and was appointed as a Reserve commissioned officer in the Dental Corps.

e. Statement for commissioning AMEDD officer USAR dated 29 October 2019, a service agreement between the U.S. Army and the applicant to enter the Reserve under the MDSSP for an educational incentive in return for a Reserve obligation. The applicant commissioned in the Dental Corps as a student for the MDSSP incentive in AMEDD APMC. He was unconditionally accepted for enrollment in a dental school program acceptable to the Surgeon General of the Army. In exchange for receiving MDSSP to be paid by the Army to continue until he completed dental school or suspension or termination of MDSSP. His participation in MDSSP was scheduled to begin on 13 November 2019 to be completed on 13 May 2022. He would incur a service obligation until 13 May 2027. He had a statutory military service obligation which he incurred on his initial entry in the U.S. Armed Forces until 28 October 2027. He understood that none of the USAR or ARNG incentive may be received concurrently, the statement was not applicable to STRAP stipend or HPLRP dual incentive program. He also understood that any service obligation incurred by receipt of these incentives may not be served concurrently. Upon completion of dental school, he would serve in and participate satisfactorily in the Selected Reserve for 1-year for each 6-months of stipend received.

f. On 16 April 2020, Orders Number C-04-004619, issued by the U.S. Army Human Resources Command (AHRC), the applicant was appointed and assigned to the USAR, effective 28 October 2019, and attached to the APMC.

g. On 21 April 2020, Orders Number 20-112-00002, issued by Headquarters, APMC, the applicant was attached to the APMC, effective 28 October 2019, and the additional instructions shows the applicant was enrolled in the DSSP.

h. On 8 February 2023, Orders Number T-02-300868, issued by AHRC, the applicant was ordered to active duty for training, effective 12 March 2023.

i. DD Form 220 (Active Duty Report) shows the applicant was released from active duty on 4 April 2023 and completed 23-days of active service and graduated from the AMEDD Direct Commission Course.

j. On 14 September 2023, Orders Number 6001010, issued by the Department of the Army, the applicant was honorably voluntarily separated from the USAR, effective 25 May 2022.

k. On 15 September 2023, Orders Number 6015320, issued by the Department of the Army, the applicant was gained in the USAR from civilian life with prior service, effective 26 May 2022.

I. Soldier Management Services - WEB Portal screenshot shows:

(1) On 30 June 2022, the applicant's STRAP contract was received which was saved and verified for eligibility and data entry was completed.

(2) On 3 October 2023, the STRAP extension memorandum was approved and a pay request was forwarded to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) for payment.

(3) On 26 October 2023, the applicant's STRAP stipend was terminated. His STRAP request was submitted after the cutoff date. The request needs a flash report from APMC to process the request.

3. The applicant provides:

a. VA letter dated 14 January 2022, which shows the applicant was accepted in the Advance Education for General Dentistry and the program was scheduled to begin on 1 July 2022.

- b. DA Form 71 dated 1 June 2022 which shows the applicant was appointed as a Reserve commissioned officer in the rank of captain.
- c. DA Form 5536 dated 30 June 2022, which stated the applicant was qualified in General Dentistry and was to have repayment of loans on the anniversary based on the date of the agreement in the amount of \$40,000.00 per year up to \$250,000.00.
- d. DA Form 5685 dated 30 June 2022 shows the applicant was selected to participate in STRAP and would accept an appointment as a Reserve officer. He had been accepted or was attending the approved course of specialized advanced training in the critical medical specialty of Advance Education VA Medical Center in General Dentistry. He agreed to serve 2-years in the USAR Troop Program Unit for each year or part thereof he received a monthly stipend. He was scheduled to commence his participation in STRAP on 1 October 2022 and was scheduled to complete his training on 20 July 2023. He would incur a service obligation for receipt of the stipend until 30 June 2025.
- e. USAREC Form 601-37.48 dated 1 October 2022 which shows the applicant requested to received STRAP and HPLRP and understood he would incur a service obligation which could not be served in concurrently with other obligations.
- f. USAREC Form 601-37.24 dated 21 March 2023 verified the applicant was enrolled in a resident program at [REDACTED] VA Medical Center. The program began on 7 January 2022 with a completion date of 30 June 2023 in Advanced Education General Dentistry.
- g. Memorandum for Record dated 18 July 2023 shows the applicant acknowledged the notification of the extension of the STRAP stipend and contractual obligation. He accepted the STRAP stipend ending date of 30 June 2023. A result of accepting the additional stipend payments he would incur an additional obligation to end on 30 June 2030.
- h. USAREC Form 601.37-23 shows the applicant attended Advanced Education General Dentistry beginning on 1 July 2022 through 30 July 2023 at the VA Medical Center – Albany. He was to receive the STRAP stipend beginning on 1 October 2022 through 30 June 2023 for a service obligation of 30 June 2025.
- i. AMEDD APMC Memorandum, Subject: Adjustment to STRAP Contractual Service Obligation, dated 24 August 2023, shows USARC AMEDD Incentive Branch approved the applicant's request for an extension and adjustment to his STRAP stipend end date. His original STRAP stipend began on 29 October 2019 through 13 May 2022. With the extension the new STRAP stipend end date would be 30 June 2023 which changed his contractual obligation from 13 May 2028 to 30 June 2030.

j. AMEDD APMC Memorandum, Subject: Request for Entitlement of STRAP Stipend Residency Payment – CPT [REDACTED] (the applicant), dated 20 February 2024, stated the Fiscal Year 2022 STRAP residency stipend submissions were due to AHRC on 21 April 2022; however, the applicant submitted his on 24 April 2022, which was not originally accepted for processing. The applicant was authorized to received STRAP stipend payment. He resubmitted his STRAP stipend packet for FY23 funding. A incentive control number was issued to [REDACTED] and not [REDACTED].

4. On 20 December 2024, in the processing of this case, Headquarters, U.S. Army Reserve Command (USARC) provided an advisory opinion regarding the applicant's request for payment of his STRAP stipend. The advisory official stated in regard to the applicant's inquiry about his STRAP being paid to another Soldier with the same rank and name, the USARC G1 reviewed his records and confirmed DFAS paid the correct Soldier. The Resource Management Office Incentives Branch denied his claim for 2022 through 2023 incentive backpay.

a. During the period of 11 through 13 April 2023, the USARC Health Services Branch held a working group regarding STRAP incentives for FY 2021 through 2022. It was determined the launch of Integrated Personnel and Pay System – Army (IPPS-A) delayed payment from October 2022 through April 2023. AHRC directed APMC to submit a list of impacted Soldiers and their document by 21 April 2023. During the process, on or about 20 April 2023 an automatic correction caused the duplication of CPT [REDACTED] and removed CPT [REDACTED]. The same day the Incentives Branch received an e-mail which identified the Soldier's who were to receive backpay. As the applicant's name was not on the list, the Incentive Branch did not process the incentives control number request. Further correspondence involving the unpaid obligations did not include the applicant. On 15 May 2023, APMC stated the applicant would adjust his start date for the stipend program to reflect 1 October 2022. However, the Incentives Branch did not receive this request until 12 October 2023, at which time the Incentives Branch denied his request because the program ended.

b. On 11 January 2024, the USARC AMEDD Incentive Program Manager, provided the applicant's command with a final disposition denying his request. Given his graduation and program commencement timeline, the IPPS-A launch should not have impacted his request for STRAP. On 24 January 2022, the VA Advance Education in General Dentistry residency program accepted the applicant with a program start date of 1 July 2022. The applicant graduated dental school on 13 May 2022.

5. On 14 January 2025, the Army Review Board Agency, Case Management Division, provided the applicant the advisory opinion for review and comment. The applicant has not responded.

BOARD DISCUSSION:

After reviewing the application and all supporting documents, the Board determined relief was not warranted. The applicant's contentions, the military record, and regulatory guidance were carefully considered. Based upon the justification for the request to be paid STRAP, the confirmation from USARC in the advisory opinion confirming the correct individual was originally paid, and the lack of rebuttal of those facts from the applicant, the Board concluded there was insufficient evidence of an error or injustice warranting a change to the applicant's record.

BOARD VOTE:

Mbr 1 Mbr 2 Mbr 3

: : : GRANT FULL RELIEF

: : : GRANT PARTIAL RELIEF

: : : GRANT FORMAL HEARING

 DENY APPLICATION

BOARD DETERMINATION/RECOMMENDATION:

The evidence presented does not demonstrate the existence of a probable error or injustice. Therefore, the Board determined the overall merits of this case are insufficient as a basis for correction of the records of the individual concerned.

X

CHAIRPERSON

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. Department of Defense Instruction 6000.13 (Accession and Retention Policies, Programs, and Incentives for Military Health Professions Officers (HPOs)), to establish policy, assign responsibilities, and prescribe procedures for Military Department payment of incentives. Enclosure 3 (Procedures), paragraph 11 (Reserve Component Health Professions Stipend Program), subparagraph c (Medical and Dental School Students) as Reserve component officer enrolled or had been accepted for enrollment in an accredited institution in a course of study that results in a degree in dentistry. The officer signs an agreement to complete the educational program and residency would be paid a stipend for the period of the remainder of the period that a participant satisfactorily progresses towards a degree in dentistry while enrolled in dental school. The stipend will not be paid until the participant had been appointed as an officer in the Ready Reserve. The participant will agree to serve upon successful completion of the program 1-year in the Selected Reserves for each 6-months or part thereof for which the stipend was paid.
2. U. S. Army Recruiting Command Regulation 601-37 (Army Medical Recruiting Program), prescribe eligibility criteria governing the appointment of persons into the AMEDD, with or without prior service (PS), into the Regular Army (RA) and the Army Reserve (AR) and provide the policies and procedures to process applicants for direct appointments and student programs. Paragraph 9-3 (AR AMEDD Corps Programs and Options. STRAP), a (2) Upon selection for STRAP, initial payment of benefits begins after the completed enrollment documents finish processing through AHRC, Incentive Branch. The financial benefits start date is the latest of the following three possible dates: The date of the Oath of Office, the date the current term begins, or the date of the signed contract.

//NOTHING FOLLOWS//