

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
AIR FORCE BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

AUG 19 1998

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: 98-00709

COUNSEL: NONE

HEARING DESIRED: YES

Applicant requests that the "T" added to his enlisted ranks be removed. Applicant's submission is at Exhibit A.

The Enlisted Promotion & Military Testing Branch, AFPC/DPPPWB, evaluated applicant's request and provided an initial advisory opinion to the Board recommending the application be denied (Exhibit C). The advisory opinion was forwarded to the applicant for review and response (Exhibit D). Applicant's response to the advisory opinion is at Exhibit E.

AFPC/DPPPWB provided an amended advisory opinion and again recommended that the application be denied (Exhibit F). The advisory opinion was forwarded to the applicant for review and response (Exhibit G). As of this date, no response has been received by this office.

After careful consideration of applicant's request and the available evidence of record, we find insufficient evidence of error or injustice to warrant corrective action. The facts and opinions stated in the amended advisory opinion appear to be based on the evidence of record and have not been rebutted by applicant. Absent persuasive evidence applicant was denied rights to which entitled, appropriate regulations were not followed, or appropriate standards were not applied, we find no basis to disturb the existing record.

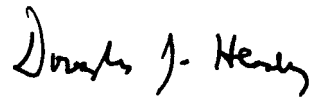
Accordingly, applicant's request is denied.

The applicant's case is adequately documented and it has not been shown that a personal appearance with or without counsel will materially add to our understanding of the issues involved. Therefore, the request for a hearing is not favorably considered.

The Board staff is directed to inform applicant of this decision. Applicant should also be informed that this decision is final and will only be reconsidered upon the presentation of new relevant evidence which was not reasonably available at the time the application was filed.

Members of the Board Mr. Douglas J. Heady, Mr. Joseph G. Diamond, and Mr. Henry Romo, Jr. considered this application on 11 Aug 98

in accordance with the provisions of Air Force Instruction 36-2603 and the governing statute, 10 U.S.C. 1552.



DOUGLAS J. HEADY
Panel Chair

Exhibits:

- A. Applicant's DD Form 149
- B. Available Master Personnel Records
- C. Advisory Opinion
- D. SAF/MIBR Ltr Forwarding Advisory Opinion
- E. Applicant's Response
- F. Amended Advisory Opinion
- G. SAF/MIBR Ltr Forwarding Advisory Opinion

Air Mechanics to NCO grades **which was** effective on **or** about 1 Jul 42. These appointments were effective less than one month from the date the applicant enlisted (12 Jun 42) as a Private. Based on the documents in the applicant's records **and** the content of the two referenced directives, we are unable to determine that his grades were identified incorrectly as a technician vice Private, Corporal, Sergeant, or Staff Sergeant.

Recommendation. Based on our findings after a review **of** documentation provided, the record **appears** to be correct and a change by the Board is not warranted.



TONY R. MERRITT
Chief Inquiries/AFBCMR Section
Enlisted Promotion & Mil Testing Br

A.A.F. MEMORANDUM)
NO. 35-3)

WAR DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS ARMY AIR FORCES
WASHINGTON, JUNE 27, 1942.

PERSONNEL, MILITARY.

Conversion Of Air Mechanics Ratings to Noncommissioned Grades

1. Reference is made to letter from The Adjutant General, dated May 26, 1942 (AG 221 (5-11-42) EA-M), subject: "Appointment of Air Mechanics to Gradea."
2. Publication of AGO revision of authorized enlisted grades and strengths for all Army Air Forces units may be expected in the near future. Such publications are expected to indicate that increased non-commissioned grades include substitutes for air mechanics ratings. Authority for the conversion of air mechanics ratings to noncommissioned grades was granted by the Secretary of War May 12, 1942, authority having also been granted at that time to the Commanding General, Army Air Forces, for the publication of the necessary order to affect the conversion.
3. Upon receipt of allotments of authorized enlisted grades and strength from The Adjutant General, commanding officers will, effective the first of the following month, disrate all air mechanics first and second class. Appointments to noncommissioned grades in keeping with the revised allotments will be made effective the same date as the disrating of air mechanics.
4. Funds allotted for payment of air mechanics are continued in force until authorization for increased grades is received and conversion made in compliance with instructions above. Currently, the conversion of air mechanics ratings to noncommissioned grades is based on the funds allotted to the Air Corps for air mechanics grades within the present fiscal year. In the future additional enlisted grades for the Army Air Forces will be defended upon the Tables of Organization as approved by the Chief of Staff. Revised or new Tables of Organization for all Army Air Forces units are now in process of being published.
5. In the event that any unit commander on September 1, 1942, has been unable to comply with these instructions due to nonreceipt prior to that time of AGO publications revising allotments of enlisted grades and strength, report to that effect will be made to the Director of Personnel, this Headquarters.
6. Attention is again directed to paragraph 6 of the communication referred to in paragraph 1, above; namely, that the advantages gained by individual enlisted men in receiving the rank, allowances, and retirement privileges of the higher noncommissioned grades will offset any disadvantage in temporary slightly reduced financial gain.

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ATCH 2

7. Revised allotments of enlisted strength in **grades** may not conform to the **latest** tentative **Tables** of Organization published. In such cases **commanders** should realize that every effort is **being** made to **eventually** attain parity between the **AGO** allotments of grades and the **Tables of Organization specifications**. **Commanders** should avoid initiating correspondence requesting increases in grades **above** **AGO** allotments so as to reach the new **Tables of Organization** figures, since this Headquarters is **fully** aware of such disparities ■

8. The principles outlined in **Army Regulations No. 95-70**, which covers the appointment of **air mechanics** and which is **now** in the process of **revocation**, should continue to be a guide for the selection and promotion of enlisted technicians **performing key maintenance tasks** ■

9. **Commanders** are enjoined to **avoid** promoting too rapidly to high noncommissioned **grades nonspecialists** and **only** partly qualified personnel whenever it is apparent that **better qualified filler personnel**, trained in **technical** schools or transferred **from other units**, are en route or due to arrive for assignment: Example: A unit may, subsequent to its activation, **have received** seventy-five per cent of **its** personnel, the majority of **whom** are nonspecialists. It is obvious that **as** the unit approaches the beginning of its training phase in the **OTU system** or proximity to **time of departure** to a port of embarkation **its** shortage in strength will be **made up** mainly by trained or experienced technician personnel. **Clearly** the latter are more deserving of high noncommissioned grades than nonspecialist personnel. Where **necessary**, nonspecialist **personnel** should be reduced to appropriately appoint trained, competent combat crew or maintenance personnel.

By command of Lieutenant General ARNOLD:

MILLARD F. HARMON
Major General, U.S. Army,
Chief of the Air Staff.

OFFICIAL :

WILLIAM W. DICK,
Colonel, A.G.D.,
Air Adjutant General.

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WAR DEPARTMENT
The Adjutant General's Office
Washington

In reply
refer to: AG 221(5-11-42)EA-M

May 26, 1942.

SUBJECT: Appointment of 'Air Mechanics to Grades'

TO: Commanding Generals, Army Air Forces, Army Ground Forces, Services of Supply, Armies, Army Corps, Corps Areas, Departments, Defense Commands, Base Commands, Divisions, Armored Force, Air Forces, USAFIA, USAFIBI, and Exempted Station and Force Commanders.

1. The ratings of air mechanic, first class, and air mechanic, second class, are established by AR 95-70 pursuant to section 13a of the National Defense Act. Enlisted men of the fourth, fifth, sixth, and seventh grades may be so rated. Upon being rated, they receive the pay but not the rank, allowances, or retirement privileges of the second and third grades respectively. In many instances air mechanics by reason of their technical proficiency are in command of enlisted aircraft maintenance crews but do not hold rank appropriate to their responsibilities.

2. In view of the foregoing, it is contemplated converting air mechanic ratings into noncommissioned grades on or about July 1, 1942. This procedure is in line with the elimination of specialist ratings for all Army enlisted personnel. It will simplify the pay system and clarify lines of promotion of technical personnel. The payment of enlisted men on the basis of grade alone will eliminate considerable work and difficulty for both the organization commander and the disbursing officer.

3. At the proper time, units will be provided additional vacancies in second, third, and fourth grades to which air mechanics may be appointed, following closely upon their being disrated. The additional grades are being obtained by withdrawing an equal number of fourth, fifth, sixth, and seventh grades now being held by air mechanics. Many units are authorized air mechanic ratings in amounts less than ten to fourteen per cent of their total authorized enlisted strengths; whereas, other units are authorized air mechanic ratings representing more than ten to fourteen per cent of their total authorized enlisted strengths. Existing legislation includes a statutory limitation for air mechanics equal to fourteen per cent of the total authorized enlisted strength of the Air Corps.

4. Conversion of air mechanic ratings into noncommissioned grades will render inapplicable AR95-70, which is being rescinded. With the rescission of AR95-70, the semi-annual theoretical and practical examinations will no longer be requisite. However, the principles in AR95-70 should continue to be a guide for the selection and promotion of enlisted men performing key maintenance tasks,

5. Enlisted men advanced to the additional grades supplanting air mechanics ratings should be those only who are capable of demonstrating their fitness and who possess the necessary technical qualifications to engage upon the maintenance duties appropriate to these grades.

6. While it is realized that a small percentage of the enlisted men now rated air mechanics will, upon being advanced to higher NCO grades, suffer a temporary relatively small financial loss monthly, the advantages gained by all individuals in receiving the rank, allowances and retirement privileges of the higher noncommissioned grades plus eligibility in certain cases for enlisted flying pay will offset the losses suffered.

7. The procedure governing the conversion of ratings into grades will be covered at the proper time in an Army Air Force General Order or new regulation.

8. It is desired that all units and detachments concerned be furnished the data in this communication.

By order of the Secretary of War:

/s/J. A. ULIO
Major General
The Adjutant General

Copies furnished:
War Department Agencies
and Military Attaches concerned.