



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON, DC

OCT 28 1998

Office of the Assistant Secretary  
AFBCMR 98-01649

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF OF STAFF

Under the authority of Section 1552, Title 10, United States Code, Air Force Instruction 36-2603, and having assured compliance with the provisions of the above regulation, the decision of the Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records is announced, and it is directed that:

The pertinent military records of the Department of the Air Force relating to [REDACTED] be corrected to show that on 1 May 1992, he elected, under the provisions of Public Law 101-189, to add spouse coverage to his child coverage under the Survivor Benefit Plan, based on full retired pay.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donna Pittenger".

DONNA PITTENGER  
Chief Examiner  
Air Force Board for Correction  
of Military Records



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AFBCMR 98-01649

MEMORANDUM OF CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATION BEFORE THE AFBCMR

SUBJECT: [REDACTED]

Having carefully reviewed this application, we agree with the recommendation of the Air Force and adopt the rationale expressed as the basis for our decision that the applicant has been the victim of either an error or an injustice. Therefore, under the authority delegated in AFI 36-2603, the applicant's records will be corrected as set forth in the accompanying Memorandum for the Chief of Staff signed by the Executive Director of the Board or his designee.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bob Stewart".

Panel Chair

Attachment:  
Ltr, AFPC/DPPTR, dtd 21 Sep 98



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS AIR FORCE PERSONNEL CENTER  
RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE TEXAS

21 SEP 1998

MEMORANDUM FOR AFBCMR

FROM: HQ AFPC/DPPTR  
550 C Street West Ste 11  
Randolph AFB TX 78150-4713

SUBJECT: Application for Correction of Military Records

Requested Correction: The applicant is requesting corrective action that would allow him to establish Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) coverage for his wife.

Basis for Request: The applicant claims his open enrollment application fell through the cracks during the transition of retired pay from [REDACTED] to [REDACTED].

Background: A member, who is unmarried at retirement, may elect coverage for a newly acquired spouse; however, the election must be made before the first anniversary of the marriage or during an open enrollment period. Public Law 101-189 (29 Nov 89) authorized a one-year open enrollment period (1 Apr 92 to 31 Mar 93) which allowed retirees to participate in the Plan.

Facts: The applicant's retired pay records indicate he was unmarried and elected child only coverage, maximum annuity, prior to his 1 Jan 85 retirement. He married on 31 Aug 86, failed to submit a valid election to establish spouse coverage before the first anniversary, but erroneously completed the form used to reestablish SBP coverage on 27 Apr 92 at [REDACTED]. However, since he did not have suspended spouse coverage, the form he completed could not be used to make an open enrollment election and the finance center could not "resume existing coverage." Information about the open enrollment period, points of contacts for members to use to gain additional information, and an application was mailed to retirees in the Feb 92 "Afterburner. USAF News for Retired Personnel," This issue was sent by direct mail to the member's correspondence address maintained by the finance center.

Discussion: The retiree failed to notify the finance center within the first year of marriage regarding his intent to include his wife as an SBP beneficiary. Although he was provided with information and an application for enrollment during the open enrollment period, he chose to seek assistance at [REDACTED] AFB [REDACTED]. It appears the SBP counselor who assisted the retiree may have misunderstood the member's SBP status and provided him the wrong form.

Recommendation: We recommend the member's record be corrected to reflect he elected to add spouse coverage under PL 101-189 effective 1 May 92. Approval should be contingent upon the recovery of the costs the member would have paid had he made the election at that time.

*Pat PEEK*  
PAT PEEK, DAFC  
Chief, Retiree Services Branch  
Directorate of Pers Program Mgt

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