

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
AIR FORCE BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

IN THE MATTER OF: DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2011-05081
COUNSEL: NONE
HEARING DESIRED: NO

APPLICANT REQUESTS THAT:

His six Air Medals, Second Oak Leaf Cluster (OLC), third OLC, fourth OLC, fifth OLC, sixth OLC and seventh OLC, be added to his records and he be given supplemental promotion consideration for promotion cycle 10E6.

APPLICANT CONTENDS THAT:

Between February and August of 2009, he had several qualifying flights for the Air Medal. He submitted the proper documentation to the squadron Resource Management section. To the best of his knowledge, the packages were processed, as this was the normal operating procedure. There were several extra duty Airmen assigned to track the process.

The first delay occurred from the submission date to the first quarter of 2010 and to his knowledge they were processed. Between deployments and temporary duty assignments, he did not have proper access to discover the lost documentation. After a couple of queries, he was informed the documentation was lost and needed to be resubmitted.

Due to a number of unfortunate incidents, the AM's were not approved until 2011. The flights were completed in 2009. He believes the record is in error as his AM's should have been included with his 10E6 promotion cycle, elevating his score above the cutoff.

In support of his request, the applicant provides copies of his DD Form 214s, *Armed Forces Report of Transfer or Discharge*.

The applicant's complete submission, with attachments, is at Exhibit A.

STATEMENT OF FACTS:

The applicant is active duty Air Force serving in the grade of staff sergeant.

The relevant facts pertaining to this application are described in the letter prepared by the Air Force office of primary responsibility which is at Exhibit B. Therefore, there is no need to recite these facts in the record of proceedings.

AIR FORCE EVALUATION:

AFPC/DPSOE recommends denial. The applicant was considered and non-selected for promotion cycle 10E6. His total decoration score was 7 points and his total weighted score was 298.31. The promotion cutoff for promotion selection in his Air Force Specialty was 304.95. Had the decorations, worth 3 points each, counted in the applicant's total score, he would have been selected for promotion for that cycle.

The applicant is under the misconception that as long as the decoration packages were created and submitted into administrative channels prior to the promotion cutoff date, the approved decorations would be used in the promotion process for that cycle. However, policy dictates, they must be placed into official channels prior to the selection date, 2 June 2010. AFI 36-2803 states a decoration is considered to have been placed in official channels when the decoration recommendation is signed by the initiating official and endorsed by a higher official in the chain of command.

The applicant submits USCENTAF Form 1, for six AMs, these are not the final, officially approved citations and only signed by the applicant. The tracker reflects the AMs were not approved by AFCENT until 21 March through 4 May 2011, well after the selections were made for that promotion cycle. The applicant contends it took over a year for the decoration package to reach the commanders desk, however, decoration policy states that someone can be awarded a decoration within 2 years of the event as long as it is awarded by 3 years. As such, decorations and promotions are separate processes. A decoration is one weighted factor and should not be awarded purely for promotion points.

There is no conclusive evidence these decorations were in official channels and signed by the approval authority before the date of selections for cycle 10E6. To approve the applicant's request would not be fair or equitable to many others in the same situation as the applicant who miss promotion selection by a narrow margin and are not entitled to have an after the fact decoration count in the promotion cycle.

The complete DPSOE evaluation is at Exhibit B.

APPLICANT'S REVIEW OF AIR FORCE EVALUATION:

A copy of the Air Force evaluation was forwarded to the applicant on 29 February 2012, for review and comment within 30 days (Exhibit C). As of this date, this office has received no response.

THE BOARD CONCLUDES THAT:

1. The applicant has exhausted all remedies provided by existing law or regulations.
 2. The application was timely filed.
 3. Sufficient relevant evidence has been presented to demonstrate the existence of an injustice to warrant relief. After thoroughly reviewing the evidence submitted in support of his appeal, we believe that credible evidence has been provided to show that his six Air Medals (20LC/30LC/40LC/50LC/60LC and 7/OLC) were placed into official channels in sufficient time to be considered in the 10E6 promotion cycle. It appears that due to administrative errors beyond the applicant's control, the recommendations were lost somewhere in the administrative process. We took note of the OPR's position on this matter; however, we believe the applicant should not be penalized for the administrative errors and that the benefit of doubt in this matter should be resolved in his favor. Therefore, we recommend that his records be corrected to the extent indicated below.
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THE BOARD RECOMMENDS THAT:

The pertinent military records of the Department of the Air Force relating to APPLICANT, be corrected to show that his Air Medal, Second Oak Leaf Cluster for the period 28 February 2009 to 31 March 2009, Air Medal, Third Oak Leaf Cluster for the period 1 April 2009 to 28 April 2009, Air Medal, Fourth Oak Leaf Cluster for the period 30 April 2009 to 27 May 2009, Air Medal, Fifth Oak Leaf Cluster for the period 28 May 2009 to 25 June 2009, Air Medal, Sixth Oak Leaf Cluster for the period 26 June 2009 to 15 July 2009 and Air Medal, Seventh Oak Leaf Cluster for the period of 16 July 2009 to 7 August 2009, were placed into official channels on 1 June 2010.

It is further recommended that he be provided supplemental consideration for promotion to the grade of technical sergeant for promotion cycle 10E6.

If AFPC discovers any adverse factors during or subsequent to supplemental consideration that are separate and apart, and

unrelated to the issues involved in this application, that would have rendered the applicant ineligible for this promotion, such information will be documented and presented to the Board for a final determination on the individual's qualifications for the promotion.

If supplemental promotion consideration results in the selection for promotion to any higher grade, immediately after such promotion the records shall be corrected to show that he was promoted to the higher grade on the date of rank established by the supplemental promotion and that he is entitled to all pay, allowances, and benefits of such grade as of that date.

The following members of the Board considered AFBCMR Docket Number BC-2011-05081 in Executive Session on 19 June 2012, under the provisions of AFI 36-2603:

Panel Chair
Member
Member

All members voted to correct the records, as recommended. The following documentary evidence was considered:

- Exhibit A. DD Form 149, dtd 5 Dec 11, w/atchs.
- Exhibit B. Letter, AFPC/DPSOE, dtd 10 Feb 12.
- Exhibit C. Letter, SAF/MRBR, dtd 29 Feb 12.

Panel Chair