

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS  
AIR FORCE BOARD FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

IN THE MATTER OF:

DOCKET NUMBER: BC-2012-01172  
COUNSEL: NONE  
HEARING DESIRED: NO

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APPLICANT REQUESTS THAT:

She be awarded the Meritorious Service Medal with Two Oak Leaf Clusters (MSM w/2OLCs).

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APPLICANT CONTENDS THAT:

She was recommended for the MSM w/2OLCs before she left her last assignment; however, her package was lost. She has made several attempts to get the decoration completed, but has been told the original request no longer exists and that it has been too long for it to be accomplished at her unit.

In support of her appeal, the applicant provides copies of the email correspondence; the reaccomplished Decor 6 (Recommendation for Decoration Printout); the proposed citation, and her officer performance reports.

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

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STATEMENT OF FACTS:

While serving in the grade of major, the applicant was assigned to the 779th Medical Operations Squadron from 16 Oct 06 to 8 Oct 08.

The MSM was established by Executive Order 11448 on 16 Jan 69. This award may be awarded to any member of the Armed Forces of the United States who distinguishes themselves by either outstanding achievement or meritorious service to the United States.

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AIR FORCE EVALUATION:

HQ AFPC/DPSIDR did not provide a recommendation. The applicant provided a signed Decor 6, dated 8 Mar 11, which was more than two years after the closing of the inclusive dates for the recommended award. She provides a proposed citation for an MSM w/2OLC for the period 16 Oct 06 to 8 Oct 08, drafted by the current commander of the 779th MOS.

Under the Fiscal Year 1996 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), Section 526, which was enacted into law on 10 Feb 96, the original or reconstructed written award recommendation, is required for the recommended individual. The recommendation must be made by someone, other than the member himself, preferably the commander or supervisor at the time of the meritorious act, with firsthand knowledge of the member's accomplishments. If someone has firsthand knowledge of the applicant's accomplishments and achievements, he may act as the recommending official. The recommendation must include the name of the decoration (i.e., MSM w/2OLCs), reason for recognition (i.e., Meritorious Service); include dates of the act, and a narrative description of the act. The recommending official must sign the recommendation, and it must be referred by a member of Congress.

The DPSIDR complete evaluation is at Exhibit B.

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APPLICANT'S REVIEW OF AIR FORCE EVALUATION:

A copy of the Air Force evaluation was forwarded to the applicant on 1 May 12 for review and comment within 30 days. As of this date, no response has been received by this office (Exhibit C).

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ADDITIONAL AIR FORCE EVALUATION:

The Secretary of the Air Force Personnel Council (SAFPC) recommends approval, stating, in part, that the timely completion of the decoration was not accomplished due to an administrative error and her service during this period meets the criteria for the award of the MSM.

The applicant provides documentation that she was recommended for the MSM while serving as a Major (O-4), Operations Officer, 779th Medical Group, 79th Medical Wing, Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland, from 16 Oct 06 to 8 Oct 08.

She provides an email dated 8 Jan 09 from the 779th MDOS stating that her decoration was "still in the works." She has also provided a DECOR 6, dated 8 Mar 11, signed by the current MDOS commander on 8 Mar 11, recommending her for the MSM. This individual also served with the applicant during the period of service she is requesting the MSM and had knowledge of her accomplishments.

The complete SAFPC evaluation is at Exhibit D.

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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 error or injustice warranting corrective action. While we note the comments by DPSIDR; nonetheless, the Secretary of the Air Force Personnel Council (SAFPC) has conducted an exhaustive review of the available evidence and we are in agreement with its opinion and recommendation to award the applicant an additional Meritorious Service Medal. Therefore, we recommend the applicant's record 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 she was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal, Second Oak Leaf Cluster, for meritorious service during the period 16 October 2006 to 8 October 2008.

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The following members of the Board considered AFBCMR Docket Number BC-2012-01172 in Executive Session on 11 December 2012, under the provisions of AFI 36-2603:

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

- Exhibit A. DD Form 149, dated 2 Apr 12, w/atchs.
- Exhibit B. Letter, HQ AFPC/DPSIDR, dated 17 Apr 12.
- Exhibit C. Letter, SAF/MRBR, dated 1 May 12.
- Exhibit D. Letter, SAFPC, dated 27 Nov 12.

Panel Chair