



Veterans and Their Families

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eVetRecs

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eVetRecs: Request Copies of Military Personnel Records

Welcome to our online military personnel records request system.

Use our system to create a customized order form to request information from your, or your relative's, military personnel records. You may use this system if you are:

- A **military veteran**, or
- Next of kin of a **deceased**, former member of the military
 - The **next of kin** can be any of the following: surviving spouse that has not remarried, father, mother, son, daughter, sister, or brother.


If you are **not** the veteran or next of kin, you must complete the [Standard Form 180](#) (SF 180). See [Access to Military Records by the General Public](#) for more details.


How to Initiate a Request for Military Personnel Records:

1. Click on the "Request Military Records" button below to start. This will launch a separate window.
2. Enter the required information in the system to create your customized request form. There are 4 steps that you need to navigate. The system will guide you through the steps and tell you exactly which step you are on.

[Privacy and Security of Veterans Records](#)

eVetRecs

 [Launch eVetRecs -- Request Military Records](#)

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 [False Rumor Regarding Destruction of Veterans Records](#)

3. **Print, sign and date** the signature verification area of your customized form. If you don't have a printer, have a pen and paper handy and we will guide you through the process. This is important because the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. 552a) requires that all requests for records and information be submitted in writing. **Each request must be signed and dated by the veteran or next of kin.**


4. Mail or fax your signature verification form to us, and we will process your request. **You must do this within the first 20 days of entering your request,** or your request will be removed from our system.

REQUEST MILITARY RECORDS

Note: If you experience problems using eVetRecs, please see the [eVetRecs Help and FAQs](#) page.

Important Steps to Request Service Records

 [Required Information](#)

 [Recommended Information](#)

 [Emergency Requests and Deadlines](#)

 [Where to Send my request](#)

 [Cost \(free for most veterans\)](#)

 [Response Time](#)

 [Checking the Status of your Request](#)

 [Other Methods and Sources to Obtain Service Records](#)

 [The story behind Modern Military Service Records](#)

What's inside an OMPF and what goes on at the National Personnel Records Center.

[Share your story at the Library of Congress' Veterans History Project](#)

THE U.S. NATIONAL ARCHIVES & RECORDS ADMINISTRATION

www.archives.gov

Wednesday, July 25, 2007

Military Service Records and Official Military Personnel Files (OMPFs, DD Form 214)

If you've been discharged from military service, your personnel files are stored here at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). We are the official repository for records of military personnel who have been discharged from the U.S. Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, Navy and Coast Guard.

Recent military service and medical records are **not online**. However, most veterans and their next-of-kin can obtain **free** copies of their [DD Form 214 \(Report of Separation\)](#) and other records several ways:

- [Use our eVetRecs system to create your request](#)
- [Mail or Fax a Standard Form SF-180](#)
- [Learn more about requesting military service records](#)

Military personnel records are primarily administrative records and can contain information such as:

- enlistment/appointment
- duty stations and assignments
- training, qualifications, performance
- awards and medals
- disciplinary actions
- insurance
- emergency data
- administrative remarks
- separation/discharge/retirement (including [DD Form 214, Report of Separation, or equivalent](#))
- and other personnel actions.

Detailed information about the veteran's participation in military battles and engagements is NOT contained in the record.

Most Official Military Personnel Files contain both personnel and active duty health records, but this practice was discontinued by the service branches beginning in 1992. See [Military Medical and Health Records](#) for more details.

The National Archives's [National Personnel Records Center \(Military Personnel Records\) \(NPRC-MPR\)](#) stores records of individual military service pertaining to former service members who no longer have a service obligation. Included are records of veterans who are completely discharged (with no remaining reserve commitment), or who are retired or have died. Records are usually transferred to NPRC (MPR) within six months after these events. NPRC (MPR) does not have records of members who are still in the active or inactive reserves or in the National Guard. The records of each military service department on file at NPRC (MPR) are listed under [Location of Military Service Records](#).

The Department of Defense and the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) signed an agreement to make the Official Military Personnel Files a permanent series of records, transferred to NARA custody 62 years after the service member's separation from the military. The new Archival Program Division at the National Personnel Records Center now holds nearly 1.2 million official military personnel files of former US Navy and Marine Corps enlisted personnel who served between 1885 and 1939. Also available are the records of 150 "persons of exceptional prominence", including former Presidents, famous military leaders, celebrities, entertainers and professional athletes who served in the military and have been deceased for at least 10 years. These records above are open to the public and researchers at the [Archival Research Room](#).

You can read more about Official Military Personnel Files and the activities within the NPRC in the article [20th-Century Veterans' Service Records Safe, Secure—and Available](#).

Additional information on the contents of Military Service Records and Personnel Files:

- [Navy Service Records](#)

From the Navy Office of Information

- [Content of the Official Military Personnel File](#)

From the Marine Corps Personnel Management Support Branch

The U.S. National Archives and Records Administration


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Military Medical and Health Records



[Use eVetRecs](#) to Get Copies of most Health & Medical Records.

Most Official Military Personnel Files at the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) prior to 1992 contain both personnel and **active duty health records**. Health records cover outpatient, dental, and mental health treatment which a former member received while in the military service. Health records documents include induction and separation physical examinations, and routine medical care (doctor/dental visits, lab tests, etc.) when the patient was not admitted to a hospital.

In comparison, [clinical \(hospital inpatient\) records](#) are NOT filed with the health records but are generally retired to NPRC (MPR) by the hospital or facility which created them. Other medical records which would not be included are Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) records, or records for service after 1992 (detailed below).

The practice of filing health records with the personnel record portion has been discontinued. In 1992, the Army began retiring most of its former members' health records to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The other services made this change on the dates shown below:

Branch	Status	Health Record To VA
Army	Discharged, retired, or separated from any component	October 16, 1992
Air Force	Discharged, retired, or separated from Active Duty Discharged or retired from Reserves or National Guard	May 1, 1994 June 1, 1994
Navy	Discharged, retired, or separated from any component	January 31, 1994
Marine Corps	Discharged, retired, or separated from any component	May 1, 1994

Coast Guard	Discharged, retired, or separated from Active Duty - Reservists with 90 days active duty for training	April 1, 1998
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After the dates shown on the chart above, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Records Management Center, St. Louis, MO, maintains the active duty health records or manages their whereabouts when on loan within the VA. Call the VA toll free number at 1-800-827-1000 to identify the current location of specific health records and to find out how to obtain releasable documents or information.

Filing Medical Claims

Veterans who plan to file a claim for medical benefits with the [Department of Veterans Affairs \(VA\)](#) do not need to request a copy of their military health record from NPRC (MPR). The original health records are provided by the Center when requested by the VA after the claim is filed. Many health records were lent to the Department of Veterans Affairs prior to the 1973 fire.

Veterans who filed a medical claim should contact the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) in order to determine if their record is already on file. The VA Toll Free # is: 1-800-827-1000 and will connect the caller to the nearest VA office.

Page URL: <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/medical.html>

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Requesting Replacement Medals, Awards, and Decorations

Requests for the issuance or replacement of military service medals, decorations, and awards should be directed to the specific branch of the military in which the veteran served. However, for Air Force (including Army Air Corps) and Army personnel, the National Personnel Records Center will verify the awards to which a veteran is entitled and forward the request with the verification to the appropriate service department for issuance of the medals.

The [Standard Form \(SF 180\), Request Pertaining to Military Records](#), is recommended for requesting medals and awards. Provide as much information as possible and send the form to the appropriate address from the following tables:

- [Army](#)
- [Air Force](#)
- [Navy](#)
- [Marines](#)
- [Coast Guard](#)

Army	
Where to write for medals	National Personnel Records Center Medals Section (NRPMA-M) 9700 Page Avenue St. Louis, MO 63132-5100
Where medals are mailed from	U.S. Army Soldier & Biological Chemical Command, IMMC Soldier Systems Directorate 700 Robbins Avenue P.O. Box 57997 Philadelphia, PA 19111-7997

Where to write in case of a problem or an appeal	Commander PERSCOM Attn: TAPC-PDO-PA 200 Stovall Street Alexandria, VA 22332-0471
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Air Force (including Army Air Corps & Army Air Forces)	
Where to write for medals	National Personnel Records Center Air Force Reference Branch (NRPMF) 9700 Page Avenue St. Louis, MO 63132-5100
Where medals are mailed from	Headquarters Air Force Personnel Ctr AFPC/DPPPR 550 C Street West, Suite 12 Randolph AFB, TX 78150-4714
Where to write in case of a problem or an appeal	Headquarters Air Force Personnel Ctr AFPC/DPPPR 550 C Street West, Suite 12 Randolph AFB, TX 78150-4714

Navy	
Where to write for medals	Bureau of Naval Personnel Liaison Office Room 5409 9700 Page Avenue St. Louis, MO 63132-5100
Where medals are mailed from	Bureau of Naval Personnel Liaison Office Room 5409 9700 Page Avenue St. Louis, MO 63132-5100
Where to write in case of a problem or an appeal	Chief of Naval Operations (OPNAV 09B33) Awards & Special Projects Washington, DC 20350-2000

Marine Corps	
Where to write for medals	Bureau of Naval Personnel Liaison Office Room 5409 9700 Page Avenue St. Louis, MO 63132-5100

Where medals are mailed from	Bureau of Naval Personnel Liaison Office Room 5409 9700 Page Avenue St. Louis, MO 63132-5100
Where to write in case of a problem or an appeal	Commandant of the Marine Corps Military Awards Branch (MMMA) 3280 Russell Road Quantico VA 22134-5100

Coast Guard	
Where to write for medals	Bureau of Naval Personnel Liaison Office Room 5409 9700 Page Avenue St. Louis, MO 63132-5100
Where medals are mailed from	Bureau of Naval Personnel Liaison Office Room 5409 9700 Page Avenue St. Louis, MO 63132-5100
Where to write in case of a problem or an appeal	Commandant U.S. Coast Guard Medals and Awards Branch (PMP-4) Washington, DC 20593-0001

Generally, there is no charge for medal or award replacements. The length of time to receive a response or your medals and awards varies depending upon the branch of service sending the medals.

Cold War Recognition Certificate

In accordance with section 1084 of the Fiscal Year 1998 National Defense Authorization Act, the Secretary of Defense approved awarding Cold War Recognition Certificates to all members of the armed forces and qualified federal government civilian personnel who faithfully served the United States during the Cold War era, from Sept. 2, 1945, to Dec. 26, 1991.

Who is eligible? All members of the armed forces and federal government civilian personnel who faithfully served the United States during the Cold War era, Sept. 2, 1945, to Dec. 26, 1991.

This Center will, upon request, provide copies of DD 214's and other separation documents, as appropriate, to authorized requesters. These documents may be used to apply for the Certificate. Complete instructions for

obtaining a copy of your DD 214 may be found under [How to Request Copies of Military Service Records](#).

However, this center does not have the application form available, nor will we be able to supply the Certificate itself. For more information concerning the application process visit the [Cold War Recognition Certificate](#) web page.

Page URL: <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/replacement-medals.html>

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