

# **Military Records & DD Form 214 Assistance**

## **Information for Veterans, Retirees, Active-Duty Service Members, and Surviving Family Members**

If military records have been lost, damaged, or are otherwise unavailable, assistance is available through the National Archives and the Department of Veterans Affairs. These resources can help obtain copies of military service records needed for benefits, burial honors, retirement matters, and other official purposes.

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### **National Archives – Military Service Records**

The National Archives is the official repository for military personnel records and is the primary source for obtaining copies of military service documents.

#### **Available Records**

The National Archives may be able to provide copies of:

- DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty)
- Official Military Personnel Files (OMPF)
- Separation and discharge documents
- Service verification records
- Military awards and decorations information
- Retirement-related military records

#### **Request Records Online**

**National Archives Veterans' Service Records** <https://www.archives.gov/veterans>

**Military Records Request System (eVetRecs)** <https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records>

#### **National Personnel Records Center (NPRC)**

The National Personnel Records Center maintains military personnel records and assists veterans and eligible family members with records requests.

**Phone:** 314-801-0800

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#### **Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)**

The Department of Veterans Affairs can provide guidance regarding military records needed to support VA benefits, survivor claims, burial benefits, and other veteran-related services.

## VA Records Assistance

Website: <https://www.va.gov/resources/how-to-get-your-dd214-online/>

Phone: 800-827-1000

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## Information for Surviving Spouses and Family Members

Following the death of a veteran or military retiree, family members should gather and safeguard important documents as soon as practical. These records may be needed to apply for benefits and settle military-related matters.

### Recommended Documents

- DD Form 214
  - Retirement Orders (if retired from military service)
  - VA Disability Rating Decisions
  - Marriage Certificate
  - Death Certificate
  - Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) Documents
  - Military Awards and Decorations Documentation
  - Life Insurance Documents
  - Military Identification Cards (if applicable)
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## Need Help?

If you are unable to locate military records or need assistance determining which documents are required, begin by contacting the National Archives. In most cases, the National Archives is the fastest and most authoritative source for obtaining military personnel records and DD Form 214s.

### Primary Contact Information

#### National Archives Veterans' Service Records

Website: <https://www.archives.gov/veterans>

Phone: 314-801-0800

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*This information is provided as a public service to assist veterans, military retirees, active-duty service members, and their families in obtaining official military records and related documentation.*