

Military Service Records, Awards, and Unit Histories: A Guide to Locating Sources

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Summary

This guide provides information on locating military unit histories and individual service records of discharged, retired, and deceased military personnel. It also provides information on locating and replacing military awards and medals. Included is contact information for military history centers, websites for additional sources of research, and a bibliography of other publications, including related CRS reports.

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Personnel Files: Military Service and Pension Records at the National Archives

The Military Personnel Records division of the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC)—a component of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) located in St. Louis, MO—holds most existing U.S. military personnel, health, and medical records of discharged and deceased servicemembers of all services from World War I to the present.¹ Some older records have been electronically scanned to reduce the handling of fragile records. See NARA’s site “Access to Military Service and Pension Records” at <https://www.archives.gov/research/order/research/order/order-vets-records>.²

Official Military Personnel File (OMPF) records may be requested online at <https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records>, via the eVetRecs online system,³ or by using the Standard Form (SF)180 and submitting by mail (the appropriate address listed on the back of the form), or fax (314-801-9195).

- Access the eVetRecs system at <https://vetrecs.archives.gov/s/>.
- The eVetRecs Help page is available at <https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/evetrecs-help>.
- Information about SF-180 is available at <https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/standard-form-180>.

According to NPRC, OMPF is

primarily an administrative record, containing information about the subject’s service history such as: date and type of enlistment/appointment; duty stations and assignments; training, qualifications, performance; awards and decorations received; disciplinary actions; insurance; emergency data; administrative remarks; date and type of separation/discharge/retirement (including DD Form 214, Report of Separation, or equivalent); and other personnel actions. Detailed information about the veteran’s participation in battles and their military engagements is NOT contained in the record.⁴

Veterans, their next-of-kin (NOK), or authorized representatives (e.g., lawyers, doctors) may request these records. According to the NPRC, the NOK is “the un-remarried widow or widower, son, daughter, father, mother, brother or sister of the deceased veteran.”⁵

If an individual does not meet the definition of a NOK, he or she is considered a member of the general public and may request military personnel records via the Freedom of Information Act

¹ “Starting in 1995, the military service departments gradually began retaining their personnel records in electronic format.... All branches of service have granted NPRC access to the electronic OMPFs of its former military personnel (except for General Officers) to respond to reference requests.” See National Personnel Records Center (NPRC), “What Is an Official Military Personnel File (OMPF)?,” March 31, 2026, <https://www.archives.gov/personnel-records-center/ompf-background>.

² Also see “Who Can Request Documents?” and “Restrictions on Disclosure” in CRS Report R47212, *Modernizing Access to Military Service Records: Frequently Asked Questions*, by Meghan M. Stuessy.

³ “Users are required to verify their identity through the third-party service, ID.me when submitting new requests and retrieving electronic responses. Clicking on Start Request Online [on the webpage] will initiate that process.” See NPRC, “Request Military Service Records,” March 3, 2026, <https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records>.

⁴ NPRC, “What Is an Official Military Personnel File (OMPF)?”

⁵ NPRC, “Access to Official Military Personnel Files (OMPF)—Veterans and Next-of-Kin,” March 3, 2026, <https://www.archives.gov/personnel-records-center/ompf-access>.

(FOIA). See “Access to Official Military Personnel Files (OMPF) for the General Public” at <https://www.archives.gov/personnel-records-center/ompf-access-public>.

More information about obtaining military personnel files from 1917 to present can be found on the NPRC website, <https://www.archives.gov/personnel-records-center/military-personnel>, or by contacting the center at

National Personnel Records Center
1 Archives Drive
St. Louis, MO 63138
Tel: (314) 801-0800 public customer service line

Status Update Request Form: <https://www.archives.gov/personnel-records-center/forms>

Older military personnel records (generally prior to 1917) are located at

National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)
Textual Archives Services Division
Washington, DC 20408
<https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/pre-ww-1-records>

Types of military service records stored in Washington, DC, can be found at <https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/pre-ww-1-records>.

Information on this site includes how to order copies of military pension application files from the U.S. federal government between 1775 and 1903. This does not include state or Confederate military pension application files.

Information for congressional offices is available at <https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/congressional-information>.

The information on this page is specifically to help congressional offices respond to constituents who have contacted their Members of Congress asking for assistance. This contact information follows:

Tel: (314) 801-0816
Fax: (314) 801-0763
Email: congressional.status@nara.gov
<https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/congressional-information>

NPRC Fire and Reconstructing Lost Military Records

In 1973, a fire at NPRC destroyed approximately 16 million to 18 million Army and Air Force official military personnel files.⁶ In such cases where files were lost, NPRC uses alternate sources of information to respond to requests.

See also the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) site on how to reconstruct military records destroyed in the NPRC fire at <https://www.va.gov/records/get-military-service-records/>

⁶ Kerri Lawrence, “Archives Recalls Fire That Claimed Millions of Military Personnel Files,” National Archives News, July 23, 2018, <https://www.archives.gov/news/articles/archives-recalls-fire>. This article provides additional reference to a 1974 white paper, *The National Personnel Records Center Fire: A Study in Disaster*, https://www.archives.gov/files/st-louis/military-personnel/NPRC_fire_a_study_in_disaster.pdf, which provides an extensive account. In addition, *Prologue* magazine published an article, “Burnt in Memory: Looking Back, Looking Forward at the 1973 St. Louis Fire,” Spring 2013, <https://www.archives.gov/files/publications/prologue/2013/spring/stl-fire.pdf>. Also available is NARA, “The 1973 Fire, National Personnel Records Center, May 28, 2025, <https://www.archives.gov/personnel-records-center/fire-1973>.

reconstruct-records/. This site provides guidance on military records needed to submit disability compensation claims and explains how the VA reconstructs service records lost in the 1973 NPRC fire.

Correcting Military Service Records

For guidance on the review of discharges and military corrections boards, see NARA's "Veterans' Service Records: Correcting Military Service Records."⁷ For information on the military service review boards this page lists, see the following contact information:

- Air Force Review Boards Agency⁸: <https://afrba-portal.cce.af.mil/>
- Army Review Board Agency: <https://www.army.mil/arba>
- Board for Correction of Military Records for the Coast Guard:
<https://www.uscg.mil/resources/legal/bcmr/>
- Board for Correction of Naval Records [Navy and Marine Corps]:
<https://www.secnav.navy.mil/mra/bcnr/Pages/default.aspx>
- Secretary of the Navy—Council of Review Boards [Navy and Marine Corps]:
<https://www.secnav.navy.mil/mra/CORB/Pages/default.aspx>

Don't Ask, Don't Tell (DADT)

On September 20, 2023, the 12th anniversary of the repeal of DADT (P.L. 111-321), the Department of Defense (DOD)⁹ announced its review of the records of eligible servicemembers administratively separated for their sexual orientation during DADT with a less than fully honorable discharge characterization.¹⁰ The review was completed in October 2024, and the corrected records were sent by DOD to the National Archives.¹¹ Letters to affected individuals were then sent by DOD on how to obtain copies of their new discharge certificates.

Military Awards and Decorations

The NPRC also provides information and guidance on issuance of military awards; how to request replacing certain military awards and decorations for veterans, their NOK, and the general public; and obtaining a Cold War Recognition Certificate. Individuals can request information on

⁷ NARA, "Correcting Military Service Records," <https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/correct-service-records.html>.

⁸ According to Air Force Mission Directive 43, *Air Force Review Boards Agency*, February 10, 2022, the Air Force Review Boards Agency, "acting through independent civilian panels, decides applications from current or former Air Force and Space Force members alleging that their military records contain errors or that they were victims of an injustice. Through the Air Force Discharge Review Board, adjudicates applications from current or former Air Force and Space Force members seeking an upgrade of their discharge or dismissal" (Section 3.2, https://static.e-publishing.af.mil/production/1/saf_mr/publication/afmd43/afmd43.pdf#page=2).

⁹ DOD is "using a secondary Department of War designation" under Executive Order 14347 of September 5, 2025, "Restoring the United States Department of War," 90 *Federal Register* 43893, September 10, 2025, <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/09/10/2025-17508/restoring-the-united-states-department-of-war>.

¹⁰ DOD, "Don't Ask, Don't Tell Resources," <https://www.war.gov/Spotlights/Dont-Ask-Dont-Tell-Resources/>.

¹¹ Jim Garamone, "DOD Finishes 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' Discharge Reviews," DOD News, October 15, 2024, <https://www.war.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/Article/3934894/dod-finishes-dont-ask-dont-tell-discharge-reviews/>; and DOD, "Statement by Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III on the Department's Proactive Review of Don't Ask, Don't Tell Records," press release, October 15, 2024, <https://www.war.gov/News/Releases/Release/Article/3934856/statement-by-secretary-of-defense-lloyd-j-austin-iii-on-the-departments-proacti/>.

military service medals, decorations, and awards online at <https://www.archives.gov/personnel-records-center/awards-and-decorations>.

By military service (Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force including Army Air Corps, Army Air Forces, and Space Force¹²) via mail or online:

National Personnel Records Center
1 Archives Drive
St. Louis, MO 63138
<https://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records>

For Coast Guard:

Coast Guard Personnel Service Center
4200 Wilson Blvd., Suite 900 (PSC-PSD-MA)
Stop 7200
Arlington, VA 20598-7200

Cold War Recognition Certificate

The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 1998 (P.L. 105-85) in Section 1084 required the Secretary of Defense to prepare a certificate recognizing the Cold War service of qualifying members of the Armed Forces and civilian personnel of DOD and other government agencies contributing to national security. This certificate, known as the “Cold War Recognition Certificate,” may be awarded upon individual request to all members of the Armed Forces and qualified federal government civilian personnel who served the United States during the Cold War era from September 2, 1945, to December 26, 1991.¹³

Atomic Veterans Recognition

The NDAA for Fiscal Year 2022 (P.L. 117-81) in Section 583 required the Defense Secretary to design and produce a commemorative military service medal known as the “Atomic Veterans Commemorative Service Medal” to honor the service and sacrifice of veterans who were instrumental in the development of the U.S. atomic and nuclear weapons programs. Veterans eligible for the medal are those who, while performing official military duties during the period of July 1, 1945, to October 1, 1992:

- (1) directly participated in the detonation of an atomic weapon or device;
- (2) directly participated in the cleanup of radioactive material resulting from any such atmospheric detonation;
- (3) directly participated in the cleanup of radioactive material resulting from an accident associated with an atomic weapon; or
- (4) were exposed to ionizing radiation resulting from the operational use of atomic weapons during World War II.¹⁴

¹² According to an email from NARA dated July 9, 2026, “Space Force operates under the Department of the Air Force, similar to how the Navy and U.S. Marine Corps both operate under the Department of the Navy. The process for requesting records, medals, correcting records, etc. is the same process used for U.S. Air Force veterans.”

¹³ Information on the Cold War Recognition Certificate is available at <https://www.archives.gov/personnel-records-center/awards-and-decorations#cw>.

¹⁴ DOD, “Defense Department Announces Atomic Veterans Commemorative Service Medal,” press release, July 5, (continued...)

See the links below for additional details on the commemorative medal and certificate.

Finding Unit Histories

The Modern Military Records office of NARA has custody of records relating to World War I, World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. The records vary by conflict and branch of service. For example, the records for Army units active during the interwar periods (1920-1939 and 1945-1950) are incomplete. For more information, contact Textual Consultation at the following:

Textual Consultation
National Archives and Records Administration at College Park
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740
<https://www.archives.gov/college-park>
Email: archives2reference@nara.gov

If a military unit record is not publicly available, a FOIA request may be submitted to the agency where the record is held. For example, for special access records held at the National Archives at College Park, contact the Archives FOIA office at the following:

Special Access and FOIA Program
National Archives and Records Administration at College Park
8601 Adelphi Road
Room 5500
College Park, MD 20740-6001
Tel: (301) 837-3190
<https://www.archives.gov/research/foia>
Email: specialaccess_foia@nara.gov

For more information on how to submit a FOIA request, visit <https://www.foia.gov/how-to.html>.

Other types of auxiliary and organizational records—including Army morning reports, Army unit rosters, Army officer pay cards (WWI and WWII), Air Force morning reports, Navy muster rolls (ships only), U.S. Army Surgeon General’s office records, and VA index cards (WWI and WWII) are maintained at the National Archives in St. Louis, MO. Further information regarding these records, as well as the timespan of available records for each category, are available at <https://www.archives.gov/st-louis/other-records>. Certain published unit histories can also be found in the collections of the military departments (see **Table 1**).

2022, <https://www.war.gov/News/Releases/Release/Article/3083737/defense-department-announces-atomic-veterans-commemorative-service-medal/>; and Defense Threat Reduction Agency, “Nuclear Test Personnel Review Atomic Vets Service Certificate,” <https://www.dtra.mil/About/Mission/Nuclear-Test-Personnel-Review/Atomic-Veterans-Service-Certificate/>.

Table I. Military History Centers and Museums

Center or Museum	Telephone Number
Air Force	
U.S. Air Force Historical Research Agency (AFHRA) ^a 600 Chennault Circle Maxwell AFB, AL 36112 Contact Form: https://www.dafhistory.af.mil/Our-Research/Contact-the-Research-Division/ https://www.dafhistory.af.mil/Contact-Us/ https://www.dafhistory.af.mil/	From the AFHRA website: “Due to an increase in official requests and low manning, the AFHRA is not accepting unofficial requests at this time. Veterans who need supporting documentation to support a VA claim should use the Contact Us link with ‘VETERAN CLAIM ASSISTANCE’ written in the subject line.” For official congressional inquiries, please contact the Secretary of Air Force/Office of Legislative Liaison. Contact information is available for congressional clients in CRS Report 98-446, <i>Congressional Liaison Offices of Selected Federal Agencies</i> , by Audrey Celeste Crane-Hirsch.
Air Force Historical Support Division ^b HQ USAF HOH 1306 Luke Ave SW, Ste 300 Washington DC 20032	
National Museum of the U.S. Air Force 1100 Spatz Street Wright-Patterson AFB, OH 45433 Email: nationalmuseum.mua@us.af.mil https://www.nationalmuseum.af.mil/	(937) 255-3286
Army	
U.S. Army Center of Military History 102 4 th Avenue, Building 35 Fort McNair, DC 20319-5060 General Historical Inquires Email: usarmy.mcnair.cmh.mbx.answers@mail.mil https://history.army.mil/	For official congressional inquiries, please contact the Office of the Chief of Legislative Liaison. Contact information is available for congressional clients in CRS Report 98-446, <i>Congressional Liaison Offices of Selected Federal Agencies</i> , by Audrey Celeste Crane-Hirsch.
U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center (USAHEC) ^c 950 Soldiers Drive Carlisle, PA 17013-5021 https://ahec.armywarcollege.edu/	The USAHEC LibAnswers page is the preferred means for requesting information at https://usawc.libanswers.com/ahec .
Coast Guard	
U.S. Coast Guard Historian’s Office Commandant (CG-09242) ATTN: Coast Guard Historian’s Office U.S. Coast Guard Stop 7031 2703 Martin Luther King Jr Ave SE Washington, DC 20593-7031 Email: history@uscg.mil https://www.history.uscg.mil/	Email preferred for requesting information.

Center or Museum	Telephone Number
U.S. Coast Guard Museum U.S. Coast Guard Academy 15 Mohegan Avenue New London, CT 06320 Email: history@uscg.mil https://www.history.uscg.mil/Museum/ Marine Corps Archives Branch, Marine Corps History Division 2044 Broadway Street Quantico, VA 22134 https://grc-usmcu.libguides.com/marine-corps-archives/main Error! Reference source not found. Marine Corps Heritage Foundation 1775 Semper Fidelis Way Triangle, VA 22172 Email: info@marineheritage.org https://www.marineheritage.org/ National Museum of the Marine Corps 1775 Semper Fidelis Way Triangle, VA 22172 https://www.usmcmuseum.com/ Merchant Marine American Merchant Marine Museum U.S. Merchant Marine Academy 300 Steamboat Road Kings Point, NY 11024 Email: museum@usmma.edu https://www.usmma.edu/museum Navy Naval History and Heritage Command 805 Kidder Breese Street, SE Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5060 Email: NHHC-NavyLibrary@us.navy.mil (Navy Department Library) Email: NHHC_PublicAffairs@us.navy.mil (general inquiries) https://www.history.navy.mil/	(860) 444-8511 From the Archives Branch, Marine Corps History Division website: "If you are inquiring from the office of a member of Congress, please direct your question to the Congressional Liaison Service, Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs." Contact information is available for congressional clients in CRS Report 98-446, <i>Congressional Liaison Offices of Selected Federal Agencies</i>, by Audrey Celeste Crane-Hirsch. (800) 397-7585 toll free (703) 640-7965 Phone number not available. (516) 726-6047 (202) 433-4132 library (202) 433-7880 for general inquiries

Source: Table compiled by CRS.

Notes:

- a. AFHRA retains copies of submitted U.S. Air Force and U.S. Space Force unit histories.
- b. Due to recent staff reductions, this division is accepting official requests only from congressional staff. The public is directed to submit requests to AFHRA.
- c. USAHEC has a large collection of veterans' surveys from the Spanish American War to the present that is not found elsewhere.
- d. The link to the "Requests for Information, Support, Appointments, or Donations Form" is available at the following address: https://www.usmcu.edu/Research/History-Division/#tab_requests-for-information-support-appointments-or-donations.

VA's "Duty to Assist" and Veterans Accredited Representatives

To support disability claims of exposure to hazardous materials (e.g., Agent Orange, asbestos, radiation), some veterans may seek access to Army morning reports, unit rosters, pay cards, Navy muster rolls, captain logs/Navy deck logs, and other records from their time in military service.¹⁵

Please note: If a veteran is searching for records to support a claim for VA benefits, VA is required "make a reasonable effort to help"¹⁶ collect evidence for the veteran. This is known as VA's "Duty to Assist." This evidence may include "VA medical records, military service records, other types of federal records, [and] private medical records, like reports from a non-VA hospital or from your private health care providers."¹⁷ For more information, see CRS In Focus IF12799, *Veteran Disability Compensation and Pension Exams*, by T. Lynn Sears. The VA also accredits attorneys, claims agents, and Veterans Service Organization representatives to assist veterans filing claims.¹⁸ Also see, CRS Report R46428, *Veterans Accredited Representatives: Frequently Asked Questions*, by Tamar B. Breslauer.

For more information on hazardous material exposures, see the **VA's Military Exposure** site at <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/index.asp> and the **Exposures by Wars and Operations** site at <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/wars-operations/index.asp>.

For **Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans** see the VA's Blue Water Navy Veterans and Agent Orange Exposure site at <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/locations/blue-water-veterans.asp>. The Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019 (P.L. 116-23) extended the presumption of herbicide exposure, such as Agent Orange, to veterans who served in the offshore waters of the Republic of Vietnam between January 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975. See CRS In Focus IF11368, *Expansion of Benefits to Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans*, by Sidath Viranga Panangala.

For **Airborne Hazards and Burn Pit Exposures** see the VA's Public Health site at <https://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/burnpits/>. The VA continues to study the long-term health issues of deployed veterans and their exposure to burn pits used at military waste sites in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other areas of the Southwest Asia Theater of military operations.

On August 10, 2022, P.L. 117-168—also known as the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022, or the Honoring our PACT Act of 2022—became law. This act addresses "health care, presumption of service-connection, research, resources, and other matters related to veterans who were exposed to toxic substances during military service."¹⁹

For **Contaminated Water Exposure at Camp Lejeune**, see Section 804 of the PACT Act known as the Camp Lejeune Justice Act (CLJA) of 2022. The CLJA allowed people including veterans previously exposed to contaminated water at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, NC, to file new claims with the Department of the Navy. The CLJA deadline to file a claim was August 10, 2024,

¹⁵ Also see "How Do Agencies Collect and Manage Military Service Records" in CRS Report R47212, *Modernizing Access to Military Service Records: Frequently Asked Questions*, by Meghan M. Stuessy.

¹⁶ VA, "VA's Duty to Assist," July 31, 2025, <https://www.va.gov/resources/vas-duty-to-assist/>.

¹⁷ VA, "VA's Duty to Assist."

¹⁸ VA, "Get Help from a VA Accredited Representative or VSO," January 23, 2025, <https://www.va.gov/get-help-from-accredited-representative/>.

¹⁹ See VA, "The PACT Act and Your VA Benefits," <https://www.va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits/>. This site has links to information on Vietnam era, Gulf War era, and post-9/11 veteran eligibility.

and the Navy is no longer accepting new CLJA claims. See the Navy Judge Advocate General's website for additional information including the status of a claim filed.²⁰

For background information, see also archived CRS Report R46107, *FY2020 National Defense Authorization Act: Selected Military Personnel Issues*, coordinated by Bryce H. P. Mendez, in the section "Screening and Testing for Environmental and Occupational Exposures"; archived CRS In Focus IF11813, *Presumptive Service Connection: Former Servicemembers of Camp Stronghold Freedom at Karshi-Khanabad (K2) Airbase*, by Bryce H. P. Mendez; and related CRS products on VA health care and disability in the sources listed in the next section.

Merchant Mariners Records, Awards, and Benefits

Record requests for Merchant Mariners (members of the U.S. Merchant Marines) are available on the U.S. Coast Guard's National Maritime Center (NMC) website. Merchant Mariners or their next-of-kin (NOK) may obtain copies of their records.

Contact information can be found at <https://www.dco.uscg.mil/nmc/contact/>.

The National Maritime Center recommends use of its record request form:

https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Portals/9/NMC/pdfs/records_request/correspondence_request.pdf.

The Department of Transportation Maritime Administration (MARAD) maintains a website about Mariner Medals, including eligibility. These medals are granted by the Department of Transportation. Merchant Mariners and civilian mariners who supported the nation's Armed Forces in combat may be eligible for medals. Conflicts for which medals are granted include "World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, and Operations Restore Hope and United Shield and related operations in Somalia from December 5, 1992 to March 31, 1995."²¹ For service during World War II, some DOD and foreign government recognition medals are available.²² P.L. 100-324 allows MARAD to accept original applications for awards World War II mariners were eligible for but for which they did not apply. Mariners and their NOK may also make such applications.²³

Merchant Mariners and civilian mariners may qualify as veterans under specific circumstances, depending largely on when they served. For more information, see CRS In Focus IF12242, *Veteran Status Based on Service with Certain Civilian Groups*, by Scott D. Szymendera.

Selected Additional Sources for Research

Selected CRS Resources

[Archived] CRS In Focus IF11813, *Presumptive Service Connection: Former Servicemembers of Camp Stronghold Freedom at Karshi-Khanabad (K2) Airbase*, by Bryce H. P. Mendez

[Archived] CRS Report R46107, *FY2020 National Defense Authorization Act: Selected Military Personnel Issues*, coordinated by Bryce H. P. Mendez

CRS In Focus IF10167, *Veterans and Homelessness*, by Libby Perl

²⁰ U.S. Navy, "Camp Lejeune Justice Act Claims," <https://www.navy.mil/clja/>.

²¹ MARAD, "Mariner Medals," <https://www.maritime.dot.gov/outreach/mariner-medals#Original%20Awards>.

²² MARAD, "Mariner Medals."

²³ MARAD, "Mariner Medals."

CRS In Focus IF10418, *Do Veterans Have Choices in How They Access Health Care?*, by Sidath Viranga Panangala

CRS In Focus IF10490, *Veterans' Employment*, by Benjamin Collins

CRS In Focus IF10594, *Defense Primer: Concurrent Receipt of Military Retirement and VA Disability*, by Kristy N. Kamarek

CRS In Focus IF11082, *Veterans Health Administration: Gender-Specific Health Care Services for Women Veterans*, by Jared S. Sussman

CRS In Focus IF11368, *Expansion of Benefits to Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans*, by Sidath Viranga Panangala

CRS In Focus IF11656, *State Veterans Homes*, by Jared S. Sussman

CRS In Focus IF11886, *Veteran Suicide Prevention*, by Michele L. Malloy and Jared S. Sussman

CRS In Focus IF11200, *Gold Star Designation: An Overview*, by Carly A. Miller

CRS In Focus IF13019, *The VA Fiduciary Program: An Overview*, by T. Lynn Sears

CRS In Focus IF13213, *Veterans Affairs Life Insurance (VALife)*, by T. Lynn Sears

CRS In Focus IF12799, *Veteran Disability Compensation and Pension Exams*, by T. Lynn Sears

CRS In Focus IF12799, *Veteran Disability Compensation and Pension Exams*, by T. Lynn Sears

CRS In Focus IF12242, *Veteran Status Based on Service with Certain Civilian Groups*, by Madeline E. Moreno

CRS Report 95-519, *Medal of Honor: History and Issues*, by Barbara Salazar Torreon

CRS Report R42704, *The Purple Heart: Background and Issues for Congress*, by Barbara Salazar Torreon and Carly A. Miller

CRS Report R42747, *Health Care for Veterans: Answers to Frequently Asked Questions*, by Sidath Viranga Panangala and Jared S. Sussman

CRS Report R44837, *Benefits for Service-Disabled Veterans*, by Madeline E. Moreno, Benjamin Collins, and Libby Perl

CRS Report R46412, *Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs): Frequently Asked Questions*, by Tamar B. Breslauer

CRS Report R46428, *Veterans Accredited Representatives: Frequently Asked Questions*, by Tamar B. Breslauer

CRS Report R46511, *Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA): Pension Programs*, by Madeline E. Moreno

CRS Report R46813, *Department of Veterans Affairs: Burial Benefits and the National Cemetery Administration*, by Madeline E. Moreno and Tamar B. Breslauer

CRS Report R47212, *Modernizing Access to Military Service Records: Frequently Asked Questions*, by Meghan M. Stuessy

CRS Report R42755, *The Post-9/11 GI Bill: A Primer*, by Cassandra Dortch

CRS Report R42785, *Veterans' Educational Assistance Programs and Benefits: A Primer*, by Cassandra Dortch

CRS Report R47299, *U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs: Who Is a Veteran?*, by Madeline E. Moreno

CRS Report R47337, *Military Memorials, Monuments, and Museums: Selected Resources for Federal, State, and Local Funding*, by Carly A. Miller

CRS Report R47542, *Honoring Our PACT Act of 2022 (P.L. 117-168): Expansion of Health Care Eligibility and Toxic Exposure Screenings*, by Sidath Viranga Panangala

CRS Report R48907, *Military Discharges: Character of Service and Eligibility for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Benefits*, coordinated by Madeline E. Moreno

CRS Report RS21405, *U.S. Periods of War and Dates of Recent Conflicts*, by Barbara Salazar Torreon and Carly A. Miller

CRS Report RS22483, *Health Care for Dependents and Survivors of Veterans*, by Sidath Viranga Panangala

Selected Web Resources

African American Heritage of the Civil War, National Park Service

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/africanamericanheritage/civil-war.htm>

This website contains resources about African American military service during the Civil War.

American Battle Monuments Commission

<http://www.abmc.gov>

The website contains databases of veterans interred or memorialized at overseas American military cemeteries and memorials.

American Revolutionary War Pension Files Transcription Mission

<https://www.archives.gov/citizen-archivist/missions/revolutionary-war-pension-files>

In celebration of the 250th anniversary of American independence on July 4, 2026, NARA and the National Park Service are collaborating on a special project to transcribe case files of pension and bounty land warrant applications based on Revolutionary War service from 1800 to 1912. These Revolutionary War pension files consist of applications and other records pertaining to claims for pensions and bounty land warrants.

This project is ongoing, but the “Stories from the Pension Files” page (<https://www.archives.gov/citizen-archivist/missions/stories>) provides access to those files that have been transcribed.

Buffalo Soldiers

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/buffalosoldiers/index.htm>

The website contains resources about the Buffalo Soldiers, African Americans who served between 1866 and 1951.

Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System, National Park Service

<https://www.nps.gov/civilwar/soldiers-and-sailors-database.htm>

This website contains a database of the men who served in the Union and Confederate armies during the Civil War, as well as information on regiment histories, significant battles, and some prisoner-of-war records and cemetery records.

Confederate States of America (CSA) Records at the Library of Congress

<https://www.loc.gov/collections/confederate-states-of-america-records/about-this-collection/>

This resource provides links to the official records of the Union and Confederate armies, official records of the Union and Confederate navies, and the War Department Collection of Confederate Records. The records of the CSA span the years 1854-1889, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1861-1865, during the Civil War.

Collections and Research from the National WWI Museum and Memorial

<https://www.theworldwar.org/collections-research>

The site provides access to the records of the National WWI Museum and Memorial, which is one of the largest WWI collections in the world. Access includes state-level WWI service records.

Military Awards for Valor—Top 3

<https://valor.defense.gov/>

Official DOD site for the top 3 military awards for valor (the Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Crosses, and the Silver Star) that lists the names of recipients alphabetically by each military department.

Military Resources: Veterans at the National Archives Library Information Center

<https://www.archives.gov/research/aic/reference/military/veterans-related.html>

This site provides links to veterans' information, military casualties, prisoners of war/missing in action, and medals and honors.

Philippine Army and Guerilla Records at the National Archives

<https://www.archives.gov/personnel-records-center/military-personnel/philippine-army-records>

The collection includes records of the Philippine Commonwealth Army of the United States Armed Forces Far East, including recognized Philippine guerrilla forces (*not* the Army of the United States or Philippine scouts) during World War II.

U.S. Air University Press

<https://www.airuniversity.af.edu/AUPress/>

This site provides access to the U.S. Air University Press, which includes historical monographs and articles.

U.S. Army Center for Military History

<https://history.army.mil/>

This site contains numerous historical monographs relating to the history of the U.S. Army. This includes the U.S. Army in World War II “Green Books” and the U.S. Army in the Korean War “Black Books.”

U.S. Army University Press

<https://www.armyupress.army.mil/>

This site provides access to the U.S. Army University Press, which includes historical monographs and articles.

U.S. Army War College Publications

<https://publications.armywarcollege.edu/>

This site provides access to the U.S. Army War College Publications page, which includes historical monographs and articles.

U.S. Marine Corps University Press

<https://www.usmcu.edu/MCUPress/MarineCorps-University-Press/>

This site provides access to the U.S. Marine Corps University Press, which includes historical monographs and articles.

U.S. National Defense University Press

<https://ndupress.ndu.edu/>

This site provides access to the U.S. National Defense University Press, which includes historical monographs and articles.

U.S. Naval Postgraduate School Publications

<https://nps.edu/publications>

This site provides access to the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School Publications page, which includes historical monographs and articles.

U.S. Naval War College Press

<https://usnwc.edu/Publications/Naval-War-College-Press>

This site provides access to the U.S. Naval War College press, which includes historical monographs and articles.

VA Nationwide Gravesite Locator

<https://gravelocator.cem.va.gov/ngl/index.jsp>

The database contains burial locations of veterans and their family members.

Veterans History Project at the Library of Congress

<http://www.loc.gov/vets/>

This project collects, preserves, and makes accessible the personal accounts of American veterans.

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