

INSTRUCTION AND INFORMATION SHEET FOR SF 180, REQUEST PERTAINING TO MILITARY RECORDS

1. General Information. The Standard Form 180, Request Pertaining to Military Records (SF180) is used to request information from military records. Certain identifying information is necessary to determine the location of an individual's record of military service. Please try to answer each item on the SF 180. If you do not have and cannot obtain the information for an item, show "NA," meaning the information is "not available". Include as much of the requested information as you can. Incomplete information may delay response time. To determine where to mail this request see Page 2 of the SF180 for record locations and facility addresses.

Online requests may be submitted to the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) by a veteran or deceased veteran's next-of-kin using eVetRecs at <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/>.

2. Personnel Records/Military Human Resource Records/Official Military Personnel File (OMPF) and Medical Records/Service Treatment Records (STR). Personnel records of military members who were discharged, retired, or died in service **LESS THAN 62 YEARS AGO** and medical records are in the legal custody of the military service department and are administered in accordance with rules issued by the Department of Defense and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS, Coast Guard). STRs of persons on active duty are generally kept at the local servicing clinic. After the last day of active duty, STRs should be requested from the appropriate address on page 2 of the SF 180. (See item 3, Archival Records, if the military member was discharged, retired or died in service more than 62 years ago.)

a. **Release of information:** Release of information is subject to restrictions imposed by the military services consistent with Department of Defense regulations, the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and the Privacy Act of 1974. The service member (either past or present) or the member's legal guardian has access to almost any information contained in that member's own record. The authorization signature of the service member or the member's legal guardian is needed in Section III of the SF180. Others requesting information from military personnel records and/or STRs must have the release authorization in Section III of the SF 180 signed by the member or legal guardian. If the appropriate signature cannot be obtained, only limited types of information can be provided. If the former member is deceased, the surviving next-of-kin may, under certain circumstances, be entitled to greater access to a deceased veteran's records than a member of the general public. The next-of-kin may be any of the following: unremarried surviving spouse, father, mother, son, daughter, sister, or brother. Requesters **MUST provide proof of death, such as a copy of a death certificate, newspaper article (obituary) or death notice, coroner's report of death, funeral director's signed statement of death, or verdict of coroner's jury.**

b. **Fees for records:** There is no charge for most services provided to service members or next-of-kin of deceased veterans. A nominal fee is charged for certain types of service. In most instances, service fees cannot be determined in advance. If your request involves a service fee, you will receive an invoice with your records.

3. Archival Records. Personnel records of military members who were discharged, retired, or died in service **62 OR MORE YEARS AGO** have been transferred to the legal custody of NARA and are referred to as "archival records".

a. **Release of Information:** Archival records are open to the public. The Privacy Act of 1974 does not apply to archival records, therefore, written authorization from the veteran or next-of-kin is not required. In order to protect the privacy of the veteran, his/her family, and third parties named in the records, the personal privacy exemption of the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552 (b) (6)) may still apply and may preclude the release of some information.

b. **Fees for Archival Records:** Access to archival records are granted by offering copies of the records for a fee (44 U.S.C. 2116 (c)). If a fee applies to the photocopies of documents in the requested record, you will receive an invoice. Photocopies will be sent after payment is made. For more information see <http://www.archives.gov/st-louis/archival-programs/military-personnel-archival/ompf-archival-requests.html>.

4. Where reply may be sent. The reply may be sent to the service member or any other address designated by the service member or other authorized requester. If the designated address is NOT registered to the addressee by the U.S. Postal Service (USPS), provide BOTH the addressee's name AND "in care of" (c/o) the name of the person to whom the address is registered on the NAME line in Section III, item 3, on page 1 of the SF 180. The COMPLETE address must be provided, INCLUDING any apartment/suite/unit/lot/space/etc. number.

5. Definitions and abbreviations. DISCHARGED -- the individual has no current military status; SERVICE TREATMENT RECORD (STR) -- The chronology of medical, mental health, and dental care received by service members during the course of their military career (does not include records of treatment while hospitalized); TDRL -- Temporary Disability Retired List.

6. Service completed before World War I. National Archives Trust Fund (NATF) forms must be used to request these records. Obtain the forms by e-mail from inquire@nara.gov or write to the Code 6 address on page 2 of the SF 180.

PRIVACY ACT OF 1974 COMPLIANCE INFORMATION

The following information is provided in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552a(e)(3) and applies to this form. Authority for collection of the information is 44 U.S.C. 2907, 3101, and 3103, and Public Law 104-134 (April 26, 1996), as amended in title 31, section 7701. Disclosure of the information is voluntary. If the requested information is not provided, it may delay servicing your inquiry because the facility servicing the service member's record may not have all of the information needed to locate it. The purpose of the information on this form is to assist the facility servicing the records (see the address list) in locating the correct military service record(s) or information to answer your inquiry. This form is then retained as a record of disclosure. The form may also be disclosed to Department of Defense components, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS, U.S. Coast Guard), or the National Archives and Records Administration when the original custodian of the military health and personnel records transfers all or part of those records to that agency. If the service member was a member of the National Guard, the form may also be disclosed to the Adjutant General of the appropriate state, District of Columbia, or Puerto Rico, where he or she served.

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT PUBLIC BURDEN STATEMENT

Public burden reporting for this collection of information is estimated to be five minutes per request, including time for reviewing instructions and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of the collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to National Archives and Records Administration (ISSD), 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740-6001. **DO NOT SEND COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS.** SEND COMPLETED FORMS TO THE APPROPRIATE ADDRESS LISTED ON PAGE 2 OF THE SF 180.

REQUEST PERTAINING TO MILITARY RECORDS

Requests from veterans or deceased veteran's next-of-kin may be submitted online by using eVetRecs at <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/>
To ensure the best possible service, please thoroughly review the accompanying instructions before filling out this form. PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY OR TYPE BELOW.

SECTION I - INFORMATION NEEDED TO LOCATE RECORDS (Furnish as much information as possible.)

1. NAME USED DURING SERVICE (last, first, full middle)		2. SOCIAL SECURITY #		3. DATE OF BIRTH		4. PLACE OF BIRTH	
5. SERVICE, PAST AND PRESENT (For an effective records search, it is important that ALL service be shown below.)							
	BRANCH OF SERVICE	DATE ENTERED	DATE RELEASED	OFFICER	ENLISTED	SERVICE NUMBER (If unknown, write "unknown")	
a. ACTIVE	-			☐	☐		
b. RESERVE	-			☐	☐		
c. STATE NATIONAL GUARD	-			☐	☐		
6. IS THIS PERSON DECEASED? ☐ NO ☐ YES - MUST provide Date of Death if veteran is deceased: _____							
7. DID THIS PERSON RETIRE FROM MILITARY SERVICE? ☐ NO ☐ YES							

SECTION II - INFORMATION AND/OR DOCUMENTS REQUESTED

1. CHECK THE ITEM(S) YOU ARE REQUESTING:

- ☐ **DD Form 214 or equivalent.** Year(s) in which form(s) issued to veteran: _____
This form contains information normally needed to verify military service. A copy may be sent to the veteran, the deceased veteran's next-of-kin, or other persons or organizations, if authorized in Section III, below. An UNDELETED DD214 is ordinarily required to determine eligibility for benefits. If you request a DELETED copy, the following items will be blacked out: authority for separation, reason for separation, reenlistment eligibility code, separation (SPD/SPN) code, and, for separations after June 30, 1979, character of separation and dates of time lost.
An UNDELETED copy will be sent UNLESS YOU SPECIFY A DELETED COPY by checking this box: ☐ I want a DELETED copy.
- ☐ **Medical Records** Includes Service Treatment Records, Health (outpatient) and Dental Records. IF HOSPITALIZED (inpatient) the FACILITY NAME and DATE (month and year) for EACH admission MUST be provided: _____
- ☐ **Other (Specify):** _____

2. **PURPOSE:** (Providing information about the purpose of the request is strictly voluntary; however, it may help to provide the best possible response and may result in a faster reply. Information provided will in no way be used to make a decision to deny the request.)

- ☐ Benefits (explain) ☐ Employment ☐ VA Loan Programs ☐ Medical ☐ Genealogy ☐ Correction ☐ Personal ☐ Other (explain)

Explain here: _____

SECTION III - RETURN ADDRESS AND SIGNATURE

1. REQUESTER NAME:

2. ☐ I am the MILITARY SERVICE MEMBER OR VETERAN identified in Section I, above.
☐ I am the DECEASED VETERAN'S NEXT-OF-KIN (MUST submit Proof of Death. See item 2a on instruction sheet.)

(Relationship to deceased veteran)

- ☐ I am the VETERAN'S LEGAL GUARDIAN (MUST submit copy of Court Appointment) or AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE (MUST submit copy of Authorization Letter or Power of Attorney)
☐ OTHER

(Specify type of Other)

3. SEND INFORMATION/DOCUMENTS TO:

(Please print or type. See item 4 on accompanying instructions.)

Name

Street

Apt.

City

State

Zip Code

4. **AUTHORIZATION SIGNATURE:** I declare (or certify, verify, or state) under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the information in this Section III is true and correct and that I authorize the release of the requested information. (See items 2a or 3a on accompanying instruction sheet. Without the Authorization Signature of the veteran, next-of-kin of deceased veteran, veteran's legal guardian, authorized government agent, or other authorized representative, only limited information can be released unless the request is archival. No signature is required if the request is for archival records.)

* This form is available at <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/standard-form-180.html> on the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) web site. *

Signature Required - Do not print

Date

Daytime phone

Fax Number

Email address

The various categories of military service records are described in the chart below. For each category there is a code number which indicates the address at the bottom of the page to which this request should be sent. Please refer to the Instruction and Information Sheet accompanying this form as needed.

BRANCH	CURRENT STATUS OF SERVICE MEMBER	Personnel Record		Medical or Service Treatment Record	
AIR FORCE	Discharged, deceased, or retired before 5/1/1994		14		14
	Discharged, deceased, or retired 5/1/1994 – 9/30/2004		14		11
	Discharged, deceased, or retired 10/1/2004 – 12/31/2013		1		11
	Discharged, deceased, or retired on or after 1/1/2014		1		13
	Active (including National Guard on active duty in the Air Force), TDRL, or general officers retired with pay		1		
	Reserve, IRR, Retired Reserve in non-pay status, current National Guard officers not on active duty in the Air Force, or National Guard released from active duty in the Air Force		2		
	Current National Guard enlisted not on active duty in the Air Force		2		13
COAST GUARD	Discharge, deceased, or retired before 1/1/1898		6		
	Discharged, deceased, or retired 1/1/1898 – 3/31/1998		14		14
	Discharged, deceased, or retired 4/1/1998 – 9/30/2006		14		11
	Discharged, deceased, or retired 10/1/2006 – 9/30/2013		3		11
	Discharged, deceased, or retired on or after 10/1/2013		3		14
	Active, Reserve, Individual Ready Reserve or TDRL		3		
MARINE CORPS	Discharged, deceased, or retired before 1/1/1895		6		
	Discharged, deceased, or retired 1/1/1905 – 4/30/1994		14		14
	Discharged, deceased, or retired 5/1/1994 – 12/31/1998		14		11
	Discharged, deceased, or retired 1/1/1999 – 12/31/2013		4		11
	Discharged, deceased, or retired on or after 1/1/2014		4		8
	Individual Ready Reserve		5		
	Active, Selected Marine Corps Reserve, TDRL		4		
ARMY	Discharged, deceased, or retired before 11/1/1912 (enlisted) or before 7/1/1917 (officer)		6		
	Discharged, deceased, or retired 11/1/1912 – 10/15/1992 (enlisted) or 7/1/1917 – 10/15/1992 (officer)		14		
	Discharged, deceased, or retired 10/16/1992 – 9/30/2002		14		11
	Discharged, deceased, or retired (including TDRL) 10/1/2002 – 12/31/2013		7		11
	Discharged, deceased, or retired (including TDRL) on or after 1/1/2014		7		9
	Current Soldier (Active, Reserve (including Individual Ready Reserve) or National Guard)		7		
NAVY	Discharged, deceased, or retired before 1/1/1886 (enlisted) or before 1/1/1903 (officer)		6		
	Discharged, deceased, or retired 1/1/1886 – 1/30/1994 (enlisted) or 1/1/1903 – 1/30/1994 (officer)		14		14
	Discharged, deceased, or retired 1/31/1994 – 12/31/1994		14		11
	Discharged, deceased, or retired 1/1/1995 – 12/31/2013		10		11
	Discharged, deceased, or retired on or after 1/1/2014		10		8
	Active, Reserve, or TDRL		10		
PHS	Public Health Service - Commissioned Corps officers only		12		

ADDRESS LIST OF CUSTODIANS and SELF-SERVICE WEBSITES (BY CODE NUMBERS SHOWN ABOVE) – Where to write/send this form

1	Air Force Personnel Center HQ AFPC/DPSIRP 550 C Street West, Suite 19 Randolph AFB, TX 78150-4721	6	National Archives & Records Administration Research Services (RDTIR) 700 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Washington, DC 20408-0001	11	Department of Veterans Affairs Records Management Center ATTN: Release of Information P.O. Box 5020 St. Louis, MO 63115-5020
2	Air Reserve Personnel Center Records Management Branch (DPTSC) 18420 E. Silver Creek Avenue Building 390 MS 68 Buckley AFB, CO 80011	7	US Army Human Resources Command's web page: https://www.hrc.army.mil/TAGD/Accessing%20or%20Requesting%20Your%20Official%20Military%20Personnel%20File%20Documents or 1-888-ARMYHRC (1-888-276-9472)	12	Division of Commissioned Corps Officer Support ATTN: Records Officer 1101 Wootton Parkway, Plaza Level, Suite 100 Rockville, MD 20852
3	Commander, Personnel Service Center (BOPS-C-MR) MS7200 US Coast Guard 2703 Martin Luther King Jr Ave SE Washington, DC 20593-7200 MR_CustomerService@uscg.mil	8	Navy Medicine Records Activity (NMRA) BUMED Detachment St. Louis 4300 Goodfellow Boulevard, Building 103 St. Louis, MO 63120	13	AF STR Processing Center ATTN: Release of Information 3370 Nacogdoches Road, Suite 116 San Antonio, TX 78217
4	Headquarters U.S. Marine Corps Manpower Management Records & Performance (MMRP-10) 2008 Elliot Road Quantico, VA 22134-5030	9	AMEDD Record Processing Center 3370 Nacogdoches Road, Suite 116 San Antonio, TX 78217	14	National Personnel Records Center (Military Personnel Records) 1 Archives Drive St. Louis, MO 63138-1002 eVetRecs: http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/
5	Marine Forces Reserve 2000 Opelousas Avenue New Orleans, LA 70146-5400	10	Navy Personnel Command (PERS-313) 5720 Integrity Drive Millington, TN 38055-3120		



NOTICE TO VETERAN OF EVIDENCE NECESSARY TO SUBSTANTIATE A CLAIM FOR VETERANS NON SERVICE-CONNECTED PENSION BENEFITS

(This notice is applicable to veterans claims for: Non Service-Connected Pension • Non Service-Connected Pension with Aid and Attendance or Housebound Benefits • Benefits Based on a Veteran's Seriously Disabled Child)

Use this notice and the attached application to submit a claim for veterans non service-connected pension benefits.
This notice informs you of the evidence necessary to substantiate your claim.

Want your claim processed faster? The Fully Developed Claim (FDC) Program is the fastest way to get your claim processed and there is no risk to participate! To participate in the FDC Program, if you are making a claim for veterans non service-connected pension benefits, simply submit your claim in accordance with the "FDC Criteria" shown below. If you are making a claim for veterans disability compensation or related compensation benefits, use VA Form 21-526EZ, *Application for Disability Compensation and Related Compensation Benefits*. If you are making a claim for survivor benefits, use VA Form 21-534EZ, *Application for DIC, Death Pension, and/or Accrued Benefits*.
VA forms are available at www.va.gov/vaforms

FDC Criteria (Claim(s) for Veterans Non Service-Connected Pension Benefits)	
1.	Submit your claim on a <u>signed and completed</u> VA Form 21P-527EZ, <i>Application for Pension</i> (attached).
2.	Submit simultaneously with your claim: • All necessary income and net-worth information; AND • All, if any, relevant, private medical treatment records and an identification of any relevant treatment records available at a Federal facility, such as a VA medical center Special Circumstances Under the special circumstances shown below, you must also submit simultaneously with your claim: • If claiming non service-connected pension with aid and attendance or housebound benefits, a completed VA Form 21-2680, <i>Examination for Housebound Status or Permanent Need for Regular Aid and Attendance</i>, and a completed VA Form 21-0779, <i>Request for Nursing Home Information in Connection with Claim for Aid and Attendance</i>; • If claiming a child in school between the ages of 18 and 23, a completed VA Form 21-674, <i>Request for Approval of School Attendance</i>; • If claiming benefits for a seriously disabled (helpless) child, all, if any, relevant, private medical treatment records for the child's pertinent disabilities.
3.	Report for any VA medical examinations VA determines are necessary to decide your claim.

The Fully Developed Claim (FDC) Program is the fastest way to get your claim processed, and there is no risk to participate!

Participation in the FDC Program is optional and will not affect the quality of care you receive or the benefits to which you are entitled. If you file a claim in the FDC Program and it is determined that other records exist and VA needs the records to decide your claim, then VA will simply remove the claim from the FDC Program (Optional Expedited Process) and process it in the Standard Claim Process. See below for more information. If you wish to file your claim in the FDC Program, see FDC Program (Optional Expedited Process). If you wish to file your claim under the process in which VA traditionally processes claims, see Standard Claim Process.

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO

You must submit all relevant evidence in your possession and provide VA information sufficient to enable it to obtain all relevant evidence not in your possession.

FDC Program (Optional Expedited Process)	Standard Claim Process
You must: • Submit your claim in accordance with the "FDC Criteria" (see page 1)	You must: • If you know of evidence not in your possession and want VA to try to get it for you, give VA enough information about the evidence so that we can request it from the person or agency that has it If the holder of the evidence declines to give it to VA, asks for a fee to provide it, or otherwise cannot get the evidence, VA will notify you and provide you with an opportunity to submit the information or evidence. <i>It is your responsibility to make sure we receive all requested records that are not in the possession of a Federal department or agency.</i>

HOW VA WILL HELP YOU OBTAIN EVIDENCE FOR YOUR CLAIM

FDC Program (Optional Expedited Process)	Standard Claim Process
VA will: • Retrieve relevant records from a Federal facility, such as a VA medical center, that you adequately identify and authorize VA to obtain • Provide a medical examination for you, or get a medical opinion, if we determine it is necessary to decide your claim	VA will: • Retrieve relevant records from a Federal facility such as a VA medical center, that you adequately identify and authorize VA to obtain • Provide a medical examination for you, or get a medical opinion, if we determine it is necessary to decide your claim • Make every reasonable effort to obtain relevant records not held by a Federal facility that you adequately identify and authorize VA to obtain. These may include records from State or local governments and privately held evidence and information you tell us about, such as private doctor or hospital records or records from current or former employers

WHEN YOU SHOULD SEND WHAT WE NEED

FDC Program (Optional Expedited Process)	Standard Claim Process
You must: • Send the information and evidence simultaneously with your claim If you submit additional information or evidence after you submit your "fully developed" claim, then VA will remove the claim from the FDC Program Expedited Process and process it in the Standard Claim Process. If we decide your claim before one year from the date we receive the claim, you will still have the remainder of the one-year period to submit additional information or evidence necessary to support the claim.	You are strongly encouraged to: • Send any information or evidence as soon as you can You have up to one year from the date we receive the claim to submit the information and evidence necessary to support your claim. If we decide the claim before one year from the date we receive the claim, you will still have the remainder of the one year period to submit additional information or evidence necessary to support the claim.

WHERE TO SEND INFORMATION AND EVIDENCE

Mail or take your application and any evidence in support of your claim to the closest VA regional office. VA regional office addresses are available on the Internet at www.va.gov/directory.

WHAT THE EVIDENCE MUST SHOW TO SUPPORT YOUR CLAIM

If you are claiming...

- Non Service-connected needs-based benefits (pension), then see the evidence table titled: **Non Service-Connected Pension**
- Increased pension benefits because your disabilities cause you to be in need of aid and attendance or to be confined to your residence, then see the evidence table titled: **Non Service-Connected Pension with Aid and Attendance or Housebound Benefits**
- Benefits because your child is severely disabled, then see the evidence table titled: **Helpless Child**

EVIDENCE TABLES

Non Service-Connected Pension

To support a claim for non service-connected pension, the evidence must show:

1. You met certain minimum requirements regarding active service during a period of war.
Generally, those requirements involve:
 - 90 days of consecutive service at least one day of which was during a period of war; **OR**
 - 90 days of combined service during at least one period of war:

(Note: If your service began after September 7, 1980, additional length of service requirements may apply, typically requiring two years of continuous service or completion of active-duty obligation)

 - **OR**, any length of active service during a period of war with a discharge due to a service-connected disability
2. You are age 65 or older *or* are permanently and totally disabled. You are considered permanently and totally disabled if medical evidence shows you are:
 - A patient in a nursing home for long-term care; **OR**
 - Receiving Social Security disability benefits; **OR**
 - Unemployable due to a disability reasonably certain to continue throughout your lifetime; **OR**
 - Suffering from a disability that is reasonably certain to continue throughout your lifetime that would make it impossible for an average person to follow a substantially gainful occupation; **OR**
 - Suffering from a disease or disorder that VA determines causes persons who have that disease or disorder to be permanently and totally disabled
3. Your net worth and income do not exceed certain requirements.

Non Service-Connected Pension with Aid and Attendance or Housebound Benefits

To support a claim for non **increased disability pension benefits based on the need for aid and attendance**, the evidence must show:

- You have corrected vision of 5/200 or less in both eyes; **OR**
- You have contraction of the concentric visual field to 5 degrees or less; **OR**
- You are a patient in a nursing home due to mental or physical incapacity; **OR**
- You require the aid of another person in order to perform personal functions required in everyday living, such as bathing, feeding, dressing yourself, attending to the wants of nature, adjusting prosthetic devices, or protecting yourself from the hazards of your daily environment; **OR**
- You are bedridden, in that your disability requires that you remain in bed apart from any prescribed course of convalescence or treatment

To support your claim for **increased disability pension benefits based on being housebound**, the evidence must show:

- You have a single permanent disability evaluated as 100 percent disabling; **AND** due to such disability, you are permanently and substantially confined to your immediate premises; **OR**
- You have significant additional disability (rated 60% or higher) in addition to any disability necessary to establish pension eligibility

EVIDENCE TABLES (Continued)

Helpless Child

To support a claim for **benefits based on a veteran's child being helpless**, the evidence must show that the child, before his or her 18th birthday, became permanently incapable of self-support due to a mental or physical disability.

IMPORTANT

If you are certifying that you are married for the purpose of VA benefits, your marriage must be recognized by the place where you and/or your spouse resided at the time of marriage, or where you and/or your spouse resided when you filed your claim (or a later date when you became eligible for benefits) (38 U.S.C. § 103(c)). Additional guidance on when VA recognized marriages is available at <http://www.va.gov/opa/marriage/>.

How VA Determines the Effective Date

If we grant your claim, the beginning date of your entitlement will generally be based on when we received your claim.

Higher levels of non service-connected pension may be assigned for disabilities that affect your ability to perform certain activities of daily living or the ability to leave your home. Higher levels of pension may be effective from the date the medical evidence first shows entitlement.

For more information on the FDC Program, visit our web site at <http://benefits.va.gov/transformation/fastclaims/>.
For more information on VA benefits, visit our web site at www.va.gov, contact us at <http://iris.va.gov>, or call us toll-free at 1-800-827-1000. If you use a Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD), the number is 711.
VA forms are available at www.va.gov/vaforms.

IMPORTANT

If you wish to make a claim for veterans **disability compensation and/or related compensation benefits**, use VA Form 21-526EZ, *Application for Disability Compensation and Related Compensation Benefits*. VA forms are available at www.va.gov/vaforms. If you cannot access this form, write the words "Will claim compensation - send VA Form 21-526EZ" under Item 9 or at the top of the attached application and VA will send you the form.



Department of Veterans Affairs

VA DATE STAMP
(DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE)

APPLICATION FOR PENSION

IMPORTANT: Please read the Privacy Act and Respondent Burden on page 8 before completing the form.

SECTION I: VETERAN'S PERSONAL INFORMATION (MUST COMPLETE)

1. VETERAN'S NAME (Last, first, middle)		2. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER	3. DATE OF BIRTH (MM,DD,YYYY)
4. SEX ☐ MALE ☐ FEMALE	5. HAVE YOU EVER FILED A CLAIM WITH VA? ☐ YES ☐ NO (If "Yes," provide your file number in Item 6)		6. VA FILE NUMBER
7A. MAILING ADDRESS		7B. TELEPHONE NUMBERS (Include Area Code)	
Street address, rural route, or P.O. Box		DAYTIME ()	
Apt. number		EVENING ()	
City	State	ZIP Code	COUNTRY
8A. PREFERRED E-MAIL ADDRESS (If applicable)		8B. ALTERNATE E-MAIL ADDRESS (If applicable)	
9. WHAT DISABILITY(IES) PREVENTS YOU FROM WORKING?			
A. DISABILITY(IES)		B. DATE DISABILITY(IES) BEGAN	
10. LIST ANY VA MEDICAL CENTERS WHERE YOU RECEIVED TREATMENT FOR YOUR CLAIMED DISABILITY(IES) AND PROVIDE TREATMENT DATES			
A. NAME AND LOCATION OF VA MEDICAL CENTER		B. DATE(S) OF TREATMENT	

SECTION II: VETERAN'S SERVICE INFORMATION (MUST COMPLETE)

11A. DID YOU SERVE UNDER ANOTHER NAME? ☐ YES (If "Yes," complete Item 11B) ☐ NO (If "No," skip to Item 12A)		11B. PLEASE LIST THE OTHER NAME(S) YOU SERVED UNDER	
12A. I ENTERED ACTIVE SERVICE ON (MM,DD,YYYY)	12B. BRANCH OF SERVICE	12C. RELEASE DATE OR ANTICIPATED DATE OF RELEASE FROM ACTIVE SERVICE	
12D. DID YOU SERVE IN A COMBAT ZONE SINCE 9-11-2001? ☐ YES ☐ NO		12E. PLACE OF LAST OR ANTICIPATED SEPARATION	
13A. ARE YOU CURRENTLY ACTIVATED TO FEDERAL ACTIVE DUTY UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF TITLE 10, U.S.C. (National Guard)? ☐ YES ☐ NO (If "Yes," provide date of activation in Item 13B)		13B. DATE OF ACTIVATION (MM,DD,YYYY)	
14A. WHAT IS THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF YOUR RESERVE/NATIONAL GUARD UNIT?		14B. WHAT IS THE TELEPHONE NUMBER OF YOUR CURRENT UNIT? (Include Area Code) ()	
15A. HAVE YOU EVER BEEN A PRISONER OF WAR? ☐ YES ☐ NO (If "Yes," complete Item 15B) (If "No," skip to Item 16A)		15B. DATES OF CONFINEMENT ON (MM,DD,YYYY) From: To:	
16A. DID YOU RECEIVE ANY TYPE OF SEPARATION/SEVERANCE RETIRED PAY? ☐ YES ☐ NO (If "Yes," complete Items 16B and 16C)	16B. LIST AMOUNT (If known) \$	16C. LIST TYPE (If known)	

SECTION III: VETERAN'S WORK HISTORY (MUST COMPLETE)

NOTE: In the table below, tell us about all of your employment, including self-employment, for one year before you became disabled to the present.

17A. WHAT WAS THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF YOUR EMPLOYER?	17B. WHAT WAS YOUR JOB TITLE?	17C. WHEN DID YOUR JOB BEGIN?	17D. WHEN DID YOUR JOB END?	17E. HOW MANY DAYS WERE LOST DUE TO DISABILITY?	17F. WHAT WERE YOUR TOTAL ANNUAL EARNINGS?
					\$
					\$

SECTION IV: MARITAL STATUS (MUST COMPLETE)

18A. WHAT IS YOUR MARITAL STATUS? (Check one)

☐ MARRIED ☐ DIVORCED ☐ WIDOWED ☐ NEVER MARRIED (Skip to Section VI if never married)
TELL US ABOUT YOUR MARRIAGE/PREVIOUS MARRIAGES

18B. HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU BEEN MARRIED (including current marriage)?

19A. DATE (month, day, year) AND PLACE OF MARRIAGE (city/state or country)	19B. TO WHOM MARRIED (first, middle, last name)	19C. TYPE OF MARRIAGE (ceremonial, common-law, proxy, tribal, or other)	19D. HOW MARRIAGE TERMINATED (death, divorce, marriage has not been terminated)	19E. DATE (month, day, year) AND PLACE MARRIAGE TERMINATED (city/state or country)

19F. IF YOU INDICATED "OTHER" AS TYPE OF MARRIAGE IN ITEM 19C, PLEASE EXPLAIN:

SECTION V: CURRENT MARITAL INFORMATION (COMPLETE ONLY IF YOU ARE CURRENTLY MARRIED)

NOTE - Skip to Section VI if not currently married.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR SPOUSE'S MARRIAGE/PREVIOUS MARRIAGES

20. HOW MANY TIMES HAS YOUR SPOUSE BEEN MARRIED (including current marriage)?

21A. DATE (month, day, year) AND PLACE OF MARRIAGE (city/state or country)	21B. TO WHOM MARRIED (first, middle, last name)	21C. TYPE OF MARRIAGE (ceremonial, common-law, proxy, tribal, or other)	21D. HOW MARRIAGE TERMINATED (death, divorce, marriage has not been terminated)	21E. DATE (month, day, year) AND PLACE MARRIAGE TERMINATED (city/state or country)

21F. IF YOU INDICATED "OTHER" AS TYPE OF MARRIAGE IN ITEM 21C, PLEASE EXPLAIN:

22A. WHAT IS YOUR SPOUSE'S DATE OF BIRTH? (month, day, year)	22B. WHAT IS YOUR SPOUSE'S SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER?	22C. IS YOUR SPOUSE ALSO A VETERAN? ☐ YES ☐ NO	22D. WHAT IS YOUR SPOUSE'S VA FILE NUMBER (if any)?
22E. DO YOU LIVE WITH YOUR SPOUSE? ☐ YES ☐ NO (If "Yes," skip to Section VI) (If "No," complete Items 22F - 22H)		22F. WHAT IS YOUR SPOUSE'S ADDRESS? (Number and street or rural route, city or P.O., State, ZIP Code and country)	
22G. TELL US THE REASON WHY YOU ARE NOT LIVING WITH YOUR SPOUSE (i.e., illness, work, etc.)		22H. HOW MUCH DO YOU CONTRIBUTE MONTHLY TO YOUR SPOUSE'S SUPPORT? \$	

SECTION VI: DEPENDENT CHILDREN (COMPLETE IF YOU HAVE DEPENDENT CHILDREN)

NOTE - Skip to Section VII if you have no dependent children.

23A. NAME OF DEPENDENT CHILD (First, middle initial, last)	23B. DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH (city, state or country)	23C. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER	(Check all that apply)						
			23D. BIOLOGICAL	23E. ADOPTED	23F. STEPCHILD	23G. 18-23 YEARS OLD (in school)	23H. SERIOUSLY DISABLED	23I. CHILD MARRIED	23J. CHILD PREVIOUSLY MARRIED
			☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
			☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
			☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

NOTE - In Items 24A through 24D, tell us about the children listed in Item 23A who **do not** live with you.

24A. NAME OF DEPENDENT CHILD (First, middle initial, last)	24B. CHILD'S COMPLETE ADDRESS (Number and street or rural route, city or P.O., city, State, ZIP Code and country)	24C. NAME OF PERSON THE CHILD LIVES WITH (If applicable)	24D. MONTHLY AMOUNT YOU CONTRIBUTE TO THE CHILD'S SUPPORT
			\$
			\$
			\$

SECTION VII: INCOME VERIFICATION - NET WORTH (MUST COMPLETE)

25. **NET WORTH** (DO NOT LEAVE ANY ITEMS BLANK. If your household has no net worth in a particular source, write "0" or "none")

Report total net worth for your household. You must report your net worth and the net worth of your dependents (spouse, child, etc.), if any. Identify the **specific** owner for each net worth source, yourself or another person in your household, as applicable.

SOURCE	AMOUNT	OWNER	SOURCE	AMOUNT	OWNER
CASH/NON-INTEREST BEARING BANK ACCOUNTS	\$		REAL PROPERTY (Not your home, vehicle, furniture, or clothing)	\$	
INTEREST-BEARING BANK ACCOUNTS	\$		ALL OTHER PROPERTY (Please write source)	\$	
IRA'S, KEOGH PLANS, ETC.	\$		ALL OTHER PROPERTY (Please write source)	\$	
STOCKS, BONDS, MUTUAL FUNDS, ETC.	\$		OTHER (Provide source)	\$	

SECTION VIII: INCOME VERIFICATION - MONTHLY INCOME (MUST COMPLETE)

26. **GROSS MONTHLY INCOME** (DO NOT LEAVE ANY ITEMS BLANK. If no income was received from a particular source, write "0" or "none")

Report total monthly income for your household. You must report your income and the income of your dependents (spouse, child, etc.), if any. Identify the **specific** income recipient for each income source, yourself or another person in your household, as applicable.

SOURCE	AMOUNT	RECIPIENT	SOURCE	AMOUNT	RECIPIENT
SOCIAL SECURITY	\$		SERVICE RETIREMENT	\$	
SOCIAL SECURITY	\$		SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME (SSI)/PUBLIC ASSISTANCE	\$	
U.S. CIVIL SERVICE	\$		OTHER (Provide source)	\$	
U.S. RAILROAD RETIREMENT	\$		OTHER (Provide source)	\$	
BLACK LUNG BENEFITS	\$		OTHER (Provide source)	\$	

SECTION IX: EXPECTED INCOME (MUST COMPLETE)

27. **EXPECTED INCOME - NEXT 12 MONTHS** (DO NOT LEAVE ANY ITEMS BLANK. If no income was received from a particular source, write "0" or "none")

Report expected total household income for the next 12 months. You must report your expected income and the expected income of your dependents (spouse, child, etc.), if any. Identify the **specific** income recipient for each income source, yourself or another person in your household, as applicable.

SOURCE	AMOUNT	RECIPIENT	SOURCE	AMOUNT	RECIPIENT
GROSS WAGES AND SALARY	\$		OTHER INCOME EXPECTED (Provide source)	\$	
GROSS WAGES AND SALARY	\$		OTHER INCOME EXPECTED (Provide source)	\$	
TOTAL DIVIDENDS AND INTEREST	\$		OTHER INCOME EXPECTED (Provide source)	\$	

SECTION X: MEDICAL, LEGAL, OR OTHER UNREIMBURSED EXPENSES (MUST COMPLETE)

28. **MEDICAL, LEGAL, OR OTHER UNREIMBURSED EXPENSES** (IF NONE WRITE "0" OR "NONE")

Report your family medical expenses and certain other expenses actually paid by you that may be deductible from your income. Show the amount of unreimbursed medical expenses, including the Medicare deduction you paid for yourself or relatives who are members of your household. Also, show unreimbursed last illness and burial expenses and educational or vocational rehabilitation expenses you paid. Last illness and burial expenses are unreimbursed amounts paid by you for the last illness and burial of a spouse or child at any time prior to the end of the year following the year of death. Educational or vocational rehabilitation expenses are amounts paid for courses of education, including tuition, fees, and materials. Show medical, legal or other expenses you paid because of a disability for which civilian disability benefits have been awarded. When determining your income, we may be able to deduct them from the disability benefits for the year in which the expenses are paid. **Do not include any expenses for which you were reimbursed.**

AMOUNT PAID BY YOU	DATE PAID (mm/dd/yy)	PURPOSE (Doctor's fees, hospital charges, attorney fees, tuition, education materials, etc.)	PAID TO (Name of doctor, hospital, pharmacy, etc.)	RELATIONSHIP OF PERSON FOR WHOM EXPENSES PAID (Spouse, child, etc.)
\$				
\$				
\$				
\$				

SECTION XI: DIRECT DEPOSIT INFORMATION (MUST COMPLETE)

The Department of Treasury requires all Federal benefit payments be made by electronic funds transfer (EFT), also called direct deposit. Please attach a voided personal check or deposit slip or provide the information requested below in Items 29, 30, and 31 to enroll in direct deposit. If you **do not** have a bank account, you must receive your payment through Direct Express Debit MasterCard. To request a Direct Express Debit MasterCard you must apply at www.usdirectexpress.com or by telephone at 1-800-333-1795. If you elect not to enroll, you must contact representatives handling waiver requests for the Department of Treasury at 1-888-224-2950. They will encourage your participation in EFT and address any questions or concerns you may have.

29. ACCOUNT NUMBER (Check the appropriate box and provide the account number, or simply write "Established" if you have a direct deposit with VA.)

☐ CHECKING

☐ SAVINGS

☐ I CERTIFY THAT I DO NOT HAVE AN ACCOUNT WITH A FINANCIAL INSTITUTION OR CERTIFIED PAYMENT AGENT

Account No. _____ Account No. _____

30. NAME OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTION (Please provide the name of the bank where you want your direct deposit)

31. ROUTING OR TRANSIT NUMBER (The first nine numbers located at the bottom left of your check)

SECTION XII: CLAIM CERTIFICATION AND SIGNATURE (MUST COMPLETE)

I certify and authorize the release of information. I certify that the statements in this document are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I authorize any person or entity, including but not limited to any organization, service provider, employer, or government agency, to give the Department of Veterans Affairs any information about me except protected health information, and I waive any privilege which makes the information confidential.

I certify I have received the notice attached to this application titled *Notice to Veteran of Evidence Necessary to Substantiate a Claim for Veterans Non-Service Connected Pension Benefits*.

I certify I have enclosed all the information or evidence that will support my claim, to include an identification of relevant records available at a Federal facility, such as a VA medical center; **OR**, I have no information or evidence to give VA to support my claim; **OR**, I have checked the box in Item 32, indicating that I **do not** want my claim considered for rapid processing in the Fully Developed Claim (FDC) Program because I plan to submit further evidence in support of my claim.

32. The FDC Program is designed to rapidly process compensation or pension claims received with the evidence necessary to decide the claim. VA will *automatically* consider a claim submitted on this form for rapid processing under the FDC Program. Check the below box **ONLY** if you **DO NOT** want your claim considered for rapid processing under the FDC Program because you plan to submit further evidence in support of your claim.

☐ I **DO NOT** want my claim considered for rapid processing under the FDC Program because I plan to submit further evidence in support of my claim.

33A. VETERAN'S SIGNATURE (REQUIRED) (Sign in ink)

33B. DATE SIGNED

SECTION XIII: WITNESSES TO SIGNATURE (MUST COMPLETE ONLY IF VETERAN SIGNED ITEM 33A WITH AN "X")

34A. SIGNATURE OF WITNESS (If veteran signed above using an "X")

34B. PRINTED NAME AND ADDRESS OF WITNESS

35A. SIGNATURE OF WITNESS (If veteran signed above using an "X")

35B. PRINTED NAME AND ADDRESS OF WITNESS

PRIVACY ACT NOTICE: The form will be used to determine allowance to pension benefits (38 U.S.C. 5101). The responses you submit are considered confidential (38 U.S.C. 5701). VA may disclose the information that you provide, including Social Security numbers, outside VA if the disclosure is authorized under the Privacy Act, including the routine uses identified in the VA system of records, 58VA21/22/28, Compensation, Pension, Education, and Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Records - VA, published in the Federal Register. The requested information is considered relevant and necessary to determine maximum benefits under the law. Information submitted is subject to verification through computer matching programs with other agencies. VA may make a "routine use" disclosure for: civil or criminal law enforcement, congressional communications, epidemiological or research studies, the collection of money owed to the United States, litigation in which the United States is a party or has an interest, the administration of VA programs and delivery of VA benefits, verification of identity and status, and personnel administration. Your obligation to respond is required in order to obtain or retain benefits. Information that you furnish may be utilized in computer matching programs with other Federal or State agencies for the purpose of determining your eligibility to receive VA benefits, as well as to collect any amount owed to the United States by virtue of your participation in any benefit program administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Social Security information: You are required to provide the Social Security number requested under 38 U.S.C. 5101(c)(1). VA may disclose Social Security numbers as authorized under the Privacy Act, and, specifically may disclose them for purposes stated above.

RESPONDENT BURDEN: We need this information to determine your eligibility for pension. Title 38, United States Code, allows us to ask for this information. We estimate that you will need an average of 25 minutes to review the instructions, find the information, and complete this form. VA cannot conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless a valid OMB control number is displayed. You are not required to respond to a collection of information if this number is not displayed. Valid OMB control numbers can be located on the OMB Internet Page at www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. If desired, you can call 1-800-827-1000 to get information on where to send comments or suggestions about this form.



Department of Veterans Affairs

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF CLAIM

PRIVACY ACT INFORMATION: The VA will not disclose information collected on this form to any source other than what has been authorized under the Privacy Act of 1974 or Title 38, Code of Federal Regulations 1.576 for routine uses (i.e., civil or criminal law enforcement, congressional communications, epidemiological or research studies, the collection of money owed to the United States, litigation in which the United States is a party or has an interest, the administration of VA Programs and delivery of VA benefits, verification of identity and status, and personnel administration) as identified in the VA system of records, 58VA21/22/28, Compensation, Pension, Education, and Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Records - VA, published in the Federal Register. Your obligation to respond is required to obtain or retain benefits. VA uses your SSN to identify your claim file. Providing your SSN will help ensure that your records are properly associated with your claim file. Giving us your SSN account information is voluntary. Refusal to provide your SSN by itself will not result in the denial of benefits. The VA will not deny an individual benefits for refusing to provide his or her SSN unless the disclosure of the SSN is required by Federal Statute of law in effect prior to January 1, 1975, and still in effect. The requested information is considered relevant and necessary to determine maximum benefits under the law. The responses you submit are considered confidential (38 U.S.C. 5701). Information submitted is subject to verification through computer matching programs with other agencies.

RESPONDENT BURDEN: We need this information to obtain evidence in support of your claim for benefits (38 U.S.C. 501(a) and (b)). Title 38, United States Code, allows us to ask for this information. We estimate that you will need an average of 15 minutes to review the instructions, find the information, and complete this form. VA cannot conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless a valid OMB control number is displayed. You are not required to respond to a collection of information if this number is not displayed. Valid OMB control numbers can be located on the OMB Internet Page at www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain. If desired, you can call 1-800-827-1000 to get information on where to send comments or suggestions about this form.

FIRST NAME - MIDDLE NAME - LAST NAME OF VETERAN (*Type or print*)

SOCIAL SECURITY NO.

VA FILE NO.

C/CSS -

The following statement is made in connection with a claim for benefits in the case of the above-named veteran:

I CERTIFY THAT the statements on this form are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

SIGNATURE

DATE SIGNED

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE NUMBERS (*Include Area Code*)

DAYTIME

EVENING

PENALTY: The law provides severe penalties which include fine or imprisonment, or both, for the willful submission of any statement or evidence of a material fact, knowing it to be false.

The following statement is made in connection with a claim for benefits in the case of the above-named veteran: