

Bits and Pieces # 19

Bay County Chapter, President LCDR Michael Reiter USN; Editor, Col. "Tex" Potter USA (Ret.)

Requesting Military Service Records

Military personnel records can be used for proving military service, or as a valuable tool in genealogical research. Most veterans and their next-of-kin can obtain free copies of their DD Form 214 (Certificate of Release of Discharge from Active Duty) and other military and medical records several ways.

The National Archives' online eVetRec system creates a customized order form to request information from veterans' military personnel records. Users must be military veterans or next-of-kin of a deceased, former member of the military.

Military records are accessioned into the National Archives, and become archival, 62 years after the service member's separation from the military. If the Official Military Personnel File (OMPF) is a federal (non-archival) record, the military veteran, or the next-of-kin of the deceased veteran, can request copies of the OMPF online. If the OMPF is an archival record, it can be ordered online for a copying fee. Archival records are open to the public.

All requests must contain specific information and be signed and dated by the veteran or next-of-kin. The next-of-kin of a deceased veteran must provide proof of death of the veteran. Requestors who are not the veteran or next-of-kin, must complete a Standard Form 180 (SF 180).

The 1973 fire at the National Personnel Records Center destroyed 16-18 million Army and Air Force records that documented the service history of former military personnel discharged from 1912-1964. Though many records were either badly damaged or completely destroyed, alternate record sources can often be used to reconstruct these records.

For more information, visit:
www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records.
(Page 11, *Echoes Newsletter*, May/August

Bits and Pieces is a collection of odd items that I mostly glean from chapter newsletters. The idea is to pass those items along to other chapters, trading our useful bits and pieces around for everyone's benefit. If you have something your chapter has done that you think others might be able to use, please contact me at dccalusa@comcast.net or (239) 542-5627 and I'll pass it along.

Dottie Conner Reliable Regulator of your Florida Council of Chapters President, Jim.



I'm hunting for a Geocache. And not finding it.