

DD Form 214
(Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty)

Your DD Form 214 is widely regarded as the most important military service document! It is a complete record of your military service, military education, awards and other pertinent service information. The DD Form 214 enables you to participate in Veterans Affairs (VA), state and federal programs.

Therefore, it is very important that you maintain and safeguard your original copies. Keep the original in a safe, fireproof location and obtain certified copies that you can use to apply for benefits and employment. Never submit your original to an agency or employer. Because of the recent increase in identity theft, it is recommended that you register your DD Form 214 with the county clerk **ONLY** if your county recorder can ensure, to your satisfaction, that the document is protected from unauthorized access.

Replacing or obtaining a certified copy of your DD Form 214 is very time consuming! All replacement copies are requested by submitting a Military Records Request (SF 180) to the National Personnel Records Center, Military Personnel Records, 9700 Page Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63132-5100. Contact information: Phone 314-801-0800, FAX 314-801-9195, email: MPR.center@nara.gov.