

Veterans' Corner

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Veteran cell phone owners

Any veteran who owns a cell phone may get a special discount of 10-to-25 percent on the monthly bill. Take your DD 214 or VA card to your local cellular office and they will give you a discount.

Replacing military records

Sometimes important military discharge and separation records are lost or damaged. Replacement records can be obtained by the veteran or next of kin of deceased veterans. The appropriate forms can be obtained on the Internet at www.archives.gov/research/index.html and mailing or faxing them to the National Records Personnel Center. Specific data about the veteran is required on these forms.

Replacing military medals and decorations

Medals awarded while in active service are issued by the individual military services if requested by the veteran or next of kin. Requests for replacements should be directed to the branch of the military in which the veteran served. Authorized medals not awarded when on active duty may also be requested.

However, for Army and Air Force (including Army Air Corps) veterans the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) verifies awards and forwards requests and verification to the appropriate services. Further information can be obtained by calling Military Personnel Records at (314) 801-0800, *email* MPR.center@nara.gov, or on the internet at www.archives.gov/st-louis/military-personnel/index.html.

Correcting military records

Errors in military records can be corrected. A request must be filed within three years of discovering an alleged error or injustice. Application is made with DD Form 149 available at VA offices, veteran's organizations and www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/infomgt/forms/formsprogram.html

Review of discharge from military service

Veterans (or next of kin of deceased veterans) who want to challenge their type of military discharge may use DD Form 293 available at VA offices, veterans organizations and www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/infomgt/forms/formsprogram.html

Veterans benefits from other Federal organizations:

• Social Security Administration

Monthly retirement, disability and survivor benefits are payable to veterans and dependents if the veteran has earned enough work credits.

• Armed Forces Retirement Homes

Veterans with at least 50 percent enlisted time are eligible to live in a retirement home if they meet certain criteria.

For Internet assistance, go to your local county library.

For questions concerning veteran's benefits and to obtain needed forms call Georgia Henry, Avery County Veterans Service Office, at (828) 733-8211.

Comments and suggestions on the Veterans' Corner or Disabled American Veterans can be emailed to Mike Halus at averycountyveterans@gmail.com or call (828) 260-0620.