

WWII Veteran Eligibility Requests Frequently Asked Questions

1. What documentation is needed if applying for either the DD Form 214 or DD Form 1300 for a deceased mariner?

Under the Privacy Act, a certified copy of the death certificate will be needed if you are applying for a DD Form 214 or DD Form 1300 for a deceased mariner.

2. How do I apply for veteran benefits if I have oceangoing service that was performed on a vessel operated by the Army Transport Service or Navy Transport Service?

Send a completed DD Form 2168 and any associated sea service documentation to:

[Army Transport Service](#)

U. S. Army Human Resources Command

ATTN: AHRC-PDR-V, DEPT 420 ISRB

1600 Spearhead Division Avenue, Department 540 Fort Knox, KY 40122-5402

Or

[Naval Transportation Service](#)

U.S. Navy Personnel Command (PERS-312)

5720 Integrity Drive

Millington, TN 38054-5045

3. How does a WWII merchant mariner request a copy of his/her medical records?

Merchant mariner medical records are generally not made a part of the records maintained by the U.S. Coast Guard. If a merchant mariner was treated at a private hospital, the records must be obtained through that facility.

Requests for medical records for merchant mariners who were treated at U.S. Public Health Service Hospitals should be sent to the following address:

Gillis W. Long Hansen's Disease Center

Health Data Center

1770 Physician Park

Baton Rouge, LA 70816

4. Can a DD Form 214 or DD Form 1300 be issued for merchant mariners who served during the Korean War, Vietnam Era, Persian Gulf War, and/or during the wars in Iraq or Afghanistan?

No. There is no active legislation permitting the U.S. Coast Guard to issue discharge documents for merchant mariners who served during the Korean War, Vietnam Era, Persian Gulf War, and/or during the wars in Iraq or Afghanistan.

5. Can training time with the U.S. Maritime Service be used as evidence of oceangoing service during World War II to establish veteran's benefits?

No. Although a mariner may have participated in training courses or spent time training with the U.S. Maritime Service, the U.S. Coast Guard is unable to use this documentation as evidence of oceangoing service during World War II. The U.S. Maritime Service was not a uniformed, armed service, and was not operated by the War Shipping Administration.

6. What agency is responsible for issuing awards and decorations to Merchant Marines who have documented oceangoing service during December 7, 1941, to December 31, 1946?

The U.S. Department of Transportation maintains files on awards and decorations granted to Merchant Marines.

Requests for information on awards and decorations should include the full name of the seamen, Coast Guard Z or Book Number, and World War II home address.

Requests should be submitted to:

[U.S. Department of Transportation](#)

U.S. Maritime Administration (MAR-630)
(Attn: Mariner Medals and Ribbons)
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

7. Does the National Maritime Center process requests for WWII merchant mariners discharged or retired from USCG service?

No, records for WWII merchant mariners discharged or retired from USCG service are maintained by the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC).

Requests should be submitted to:

National Personnel Records Center
(Military Personnel Records)
9700 Page Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63132