



Judicial Watch

Because no one is above the law!

February 2, 2005

BY HAND DELIVERY

Honorable John F. Kerry
United States Senate
304 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Standard Form 180

Dear Senator Kerry:

Attached, you will find a Standard Form 180 (SF 180), "Request Pertaining to Military Records." On Sunday, January 30, 2005, during an appearance on the NBC News show "Meet the Press," moderator Tim Russert asked you if you would sign an SF 180 and release all of your military records. You answered Mr. Russert plainly:

MR. RUSSERT: Would you sign Form 180?

SEN. KERRY: Yes, I will.*

Judicial Watch requests that you keep your word to the American public and execute the attached SF 180 immediately. In Section III ("Return Address and Signature") of the form, please have your records sent to:

* NBC News, "Meet the Press," Sunday, January 30, 2005, Moderator: Tim Russert - NBC News; Guests: Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.), Brian Williams, Anchor and Managing Editor, NBC Nightly News; Updated: 11:24 a.m. ET Jan. 30, 2005; found at: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/6886726/>.

Senator John F. Kerry
Re: SF 180
February 2, 2005
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Judicial Watch, Inc.
501 School Street, SW
Washington, DC 20024

We appreciate your stated commitment to finally putting the controversy surrounding your naval service to rest. Judicial Watch is committed to transparency, accountability and integrity in government. We intend to post all of the records we receive from Navy Personnel Command on our Internet site: www.JudicialWatch.org.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

JUDICIAL WATCH, INC.



Thomas Fitton
President

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

- 1. Information needed to locate 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.
- 2. Restrictions on release of information.** Release of information is subject to restrictions imposed by the military services consistent with Department of Defense regulations and 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. Others requesting information from military personnel/health records must have the release authorization in Section III of the SF 180 signed by the member or legal guardian, but if the appropriate signature cannot be obtained, only limited types of information can be provided. If the former member is deceased, surviving next of kin may, under certain circumstances, be entitled to greater access to a deceased veteran's records than a member of the public. The next of kin may be any of the following: unremarried surviving spouse, father, mother, son, daughter, sister, or brother. Employers and others needing proof of military service are expected to accept the information shown on documents issued by the military service departments at the time a service member is separated.
- 3. Where reply may be sent.** The reply may be sent to the member or any other address designated by the member or other authorized requester.
- 4. Charges for service.** There is no charge for most services provided to members or their surviving next of kin. 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 be notified as soon as that determination is made.
- 5. Health and personnel records.** Health records of persons on active duty are generally kept at the local servicing clinic, and usually are available from the Department of Veterans Affairs a week or two after the last day of active duty. (See page 2 of SF180 for record locations/addresses.)
- 6. Records at the National Personnel Records Center.** Note that it takes at least three months, and often up to seven, for the file to reach the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis after the military obligation has ended (such as by discharge). If only a short time has passed, please send the inquiry to the address shown for active or current reserve members. Also, if the person has only been released from active duty but is still in a reserve status, the personnel record will stay at the location specified for reservists. A person can retain a reserve obligation for several years, even without attending meetings or receiving annual training. (See page 2 of SF180 for record locations/addresses.)
- 7. Definitions and abbreviations.** DISCHARGED -- the individual has no current military status; HEALTH -- Records of physical examinations, dental treatment, and outpatient medical treatment received while in a duty status (does not include records of treatment while hospitalized); TDRL -- Temporary Disability Retired List.
- 8. 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 filed in the requested military service record as a record of disclosure. The form may also be disclosed to Department of Defense components, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Transportation (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 response, 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 (NHP), 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740-6001. DO NOT SEND COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND COMPLETED FORMS AS INDICATED IN THE ADDRESS LIST ON PAGE 2 OF THE SF 180.

Standard Form 180 (Rev. 01-04) (Page 1)
Prescribed by NARA (36 CFR 1228.168(b))

Authorized for local reproduction
Previous edition unusable

OMB No. 3095-0029 Expires 9/30/2005

REQUEST PERTAINING TO MILITARY RECORDS

To ensure the best possible service, please thoroughly review the accompanying instructions before filling out this form. Please print clearly or type. If you need more space, use plain paper.

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

1. NAME USED DURING SERVICE (last, first, and middle)		2. SOCIAL SECURITY NO.	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.)					
5. SERVICE, PAST AND PRESENT	BRANCH OF SERVICE	DATES OF SERVICE		CHECK ONE	SERVICE NUMBER DURING THIS PERIOD (If unknown, write "unknown")
		DATE ENTERED	DATE RELEASED	OFFICER	
a. ACTIVE SERVICE					
b. RESERVE SERVICE					
c. NATIONAL GUARD					
6. IS THIS PERSON DECEASED? If "YES" enter the date of death.			7. IS (WAS) THIS PERSON RETIRED FROM MILITARY SERVICE?		
<input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES _____			<input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> YES		

SECTION II - INFORMATION AND/OR DOCUMENTS REQUESTED

1. REPORT OF SEPARATION (DD Form 214 or equivalent). This 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. NOTE: If more than one period of service was performed, even in the same branch, there may be more than one Report of Separation. Be sure to show EACH year that a Report of Separation was issued, for which you need a copy.

An UNDELETED Report of Separation is requested for the year(s) _____

This normally will be a copy of the full separation document including such sensitive items as the character of separation, authority for separation, reason for separation, reenlistment eligibility code, separation (SPD/SPN) code, and dates of time lost. An undeleted version is ordinarily required to determine eligibility for benefits.

A DELETED Report of Separation is requested for the year(s) _____

The following information will be deleted from the copy sent: 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.

2. OTHER INFORMATION AND/OR DOCUMENTS REQUESTED _____

3. PURPOSE (Optional - An explanation of the purpose of the request is strictly voluntary. Such information may help the agency answering this request to provide the best possible response and will in no way be used to make a decision to deny the request.) _____

SECTION III - RETURN ADDRESS AND SIGNATURE

I. REQUESTER IS:

Military service member or veteran identified in Section I, above
 Next of kin of deceased veteran _____ (relation)

Legal guardian (must submit copy of court appointment)
 Other (specify) _____

2. SEND INFORMATION/DOCUMENTS TO:
(Please print or type. See item 3 on accompanying instructions.)

3. AUTHORIZATION SIGNATURE REQUIRED (See item 2 on accompanying instructions.) 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.

Name _____
Street _____ Apt. _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Signature of requester (Please do not print.) _____
Date of this request _____ Daytime phone _____
Email address _____

** This form is available at http://www.archives.gov/research_room/obtain_copies/standard_form_180.pdf on the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) web site.**

LOCATION OF MILITARY RECORDS

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	ADDRESS CODE	
		Personnel Record	Health Record
AIR FORCE	Discharged, deceased, or retired before 5/1/1994	14	14
	Discharged, deceased, or retired on or after 5/1/1994	14	11
	Active (including National Guard on active duty in the Air Force), TDRL, or general officers retired with pay	1	
	Reserve, retired reserve in nonpay 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	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 on or after 4/1/1998	14	11
	Active, reserve, or TDRL	3	
MARINE CORPS	Discharged, deceased, or retired before 1/1/1905	6	
	Discharged, deceased, or retired 1/1/1905 - 4/30/1994	14	14
	Discharged, deceased, or retired on or after 5/1/1994	14	11
	Individual Ready Reserve or Fleet Marine Corps 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	14
	Discharged, deceased, or retired on or after 10/16/1992	14	11
	Reserve; or active duty records of current National Guard members who performed service in the U.S. Army before 7/1/1972	7	
	Active enlisted (including National Guard on active duty in the U.S. Army) or TDRL enlisted	9	
	Active officers (including National Guard on active duty in the U.S. Army) or TDRL officers	8	
	Current National Guard enlisted not on active duty in Army (including records of Army active duty performed after 6/30/1972)	13	
	Current National Guard officers not on active duty in Army (including records of Army active duty performed after 6/30/1972)	12	
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 on or after 1/1/1995	10	
	Active, reserve, or TDRL	10	
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE	Commissioned Corps - active, inactive, terminated, retired	15	

ADDRESS LIST OF CUSTODIANS (BY CODE NUMBERS SHOWN ABOVE) - Where to write/send this form

1	Air Force Personnel Center HQ AFPC/DPSRP 550 C Street West, Suite 19 Randolph AFB, TX 78150-4721	6	National Archives & Records Administration Old Military and Civil Records (NWCTB-Military) Textual Services Division 700 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W. Washington, DC 20408-0001	11	Department of Veterans Affairs Records Management Center P.O. Box 5020 St. Louis, MO 63115-5020
2	Air Reserve Personnel Center /DSMR HQ ARPC/DPSSA/B 6760 E. Irvington Place, Suite 4600 Denver, CO 80280-4600	7	Commander U.S. Army Reserve Personnel Command ATTN: ARPC-ZCC-B 1 Reserve Way St. Louis, MO 63132-5200	12	Army National Guard Readiness Center NGB-ARP 111 S. George Mason Dr. Arlington, VA 22204-1382
3	Commander, CGPC-adm-3 USCG Personnel Command 4200 Wilson Blvd., Suite 1100 Arlington, VA 22203-1804	8	U.S. Total Army Personnel Command ATTN: TAPC-MSR-S 200 Stoval Street Alexandria, VA 22332-0444	13	The Adjutant General (of the appropriate state, DC, or Puerto Rico)
4	Headquarters U.S. Marine Corps Personnel Management Support Branch (MMSB-10) 2108 Elliot Road Quantico, VA 22134-5030	9	Commander USAEREC ATTN: PCRE-F 8899 E. 56th St. Indianapolis, IN 46249-5301	14	National Personnel Records Center (Military Personnel Records) 9700 Page Ave. St. Louis, MO 63132-5100
5	Marine Corps Reserve Support Command (Code MMI) 15303 Andrews Road Kansas City, MO 64147-1207	10	Navy Personnel Command (PERS-313C1) 5720 Integrity Drive Millington, TN 38055-3130	15	Division of Commissioned Personnel ATTN: Records Officer 5600 Fishers Lane, Room 4-36 Rockville, MD 20857-0001