



---

## **Veteran Status: DD 214 Type of Statement Issued upon Separation from the Reserve Component**

***ROA urges Congress to direct all members retiring from any reserve component, including those transferring into the "Gray Zone" or retroactively upon request by the service member, family or legally recognized entity, to receive a DD Form 214 type of statement.***

With the yearly global demand ever increasing for Reserve Component (Reserves and National Guard) members, more and more citizen warriors are being called to action to fill gaps in manpower personnel requirements. Since the Active and Reserve Components are treated equally in terms of the "Total Force" concept, it is important that all members, past and present, be treated equally. This, however, is not the case when it comes to veterans' status.

Currently not all Reserve Component members receive a DD 214 or National Guard Bureau (NGM) Form 2 when they leave military service. This is a continual issue for Reserve Component members because the VA and other government agencies normally require veterans to have one of these forms to direct veteran's eligibility determinations.

Complicating this issue was a fire in 1973 at the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) in Overland, Missouri that destroyed 80%, or 16-18 million files, of the official military personnel records. The NPRC is the federal custodian of military service records for U.S. military service members.

According to VA Pamphlet 26-7, "There is no one form used by the Reserves or National Guard that is similar to a DD Form 214," that meets "Proof of Service Requirements" (Chapter 2).

In addition, each state's Department of Veterans Affairs, or otherwise named agency supporting veteran's affairs, requires a DD Form 214 or one of the other forms set forth above as supporting documentation for state veteran's benefit eligibility determinations.

ROA recently received a message from a family member of a Georgia Reserve Officer who served in the U.S. Army Air Corp in World War II and the U.S. Army in the Korean War who had passed away. For his military service, he received both the Purple Heart and Silver Star as an Infantry Officer for combat actions. Because his family did not have a DD 214 for his service in the Korean War, the VA did not want to mention Korea on his headstone.

The table below represents the number of Reserve Component members who would benefit from a DD Form 214 type of statement.

## Number of Selected Reserve Enlisted Member and Officer Losses by Reserve Component

This table presents the number of Selected Reserve enlisted member and officer losses within each Reserve component. The highest number of Selected Reserve enlisted member and officer losses came from the Army National Guard, comprising over 40 percent of total Reserve losses.

Reserve Component	Enlisted	Officers	Total
Army National Guard	50,209	4,059	54,268
Army Reserve	27,255	4,158	31,413
Navy Reserve	9,590	1,781	11,371
Marine Corps Reserve	9,098	874	9,972
Air National Guard	8,353	1,154	9,507
Air Force Reserve	6,720	1,533	8,253
<b>Total DoD</b>	<b>111,225</b>	<b>13,559</b>	<b>124,784</b>
Coast Guard Reserve	967	182	1,149
<b>Total Sel Res</b>	<b>112,192</b>	<b>13,741</b>	<b>125,933</b>

Source: Official Guard and Reserve Manpower Strengths and Statistics FY 2016 Summary

By developing a DD Form 214 type of statement for Reserve Component members, all current and former service members will receive credit for their honorable service to our nation.