

DoD Releases Guidance on New DD Form 214-1 Series of Forms

Starting in 2014 ROA approached DoD to make a policy change to issue a DD Form 214 at predictable periods of time throughout a servicemembers career but unfortunately, no action was taken. ROA then joined forces with NGAUS and EANGUS to pursue legislation to force the DoD to act instead of an internal policy change.

DoD was directed by Congress to make recommendations for a 214-type of form which was addressed by a Pentagon working group. ROA was consulted by DoD for this congressionally directed working group in P.L. 116-92, **SEC. 570.**

RECORDS OF SERVICE FOR

RESERVES. *To establish and implement a standard record of service for members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces, similar to DD Form 214, that summarizes the record of service of each such member, including dates of active duty service.* While it might have taken some time and Congressional coaxing to get the job done, the DoD working group has delivered a strong solution in the DD Form 214-1.

The 214-1 captures many of the Reserve Component data points that have never been available in one comprehensive form. DoD Instruction 1336.01 Certificate of Uniformed Service which establishes policy, assigns responsibilities, and prescribes procedures for the DD Form 214 and 215 series of forms. The Service Secretaries have **three years to implement** procedures for issuing the DD Form 214-1. For the National Guard and Reserve, the DD Form 214-1 will be an *additional* form that will be issued with a DD Form 214. Eligible recipients will be reservists retiring or separating from service on or after January 1, 2015.

CAUTION: NOT TO BE USED FOR IDENTIFICATION PURPOSES THIS IS AN IMPORTANT RECORD. ANY ALTERATIONS IN SHADED AREAS SAFEGUARD IT. RENDER FORM VOID.

CERTIFICATE OF RELEASE OR DISCHARGE FROM ACTIVE DUTY			
This Report Contains Information Subject to the Privacy Act of 1974, As Amended			
1. NAME (Last, First, Middle)		2. DEPARTMENT, COMPONENT AND BRANCH	
3. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER		4. GRADE, RATE OR RANK	
5. DATE OF BIRTH (YYYYMMDD)		6. RESERVE OBLIGATION TERMINATION DATE (YYYYMMDD)	
7a. PLACE OF ENTRY INTO ACTIVE DUTY		b. HOME OF RECORD AT TIME OF ENTRY (City and state, or complete address if known)	
8a. LAST DUTY ASSIGNMENT AND MAJOR COMMAND		b. STATION WHERE SEPARATED	
9. COMMAND TO WHICH TRANSFERRED		10. SGLI COVERAGE AMOUNT: \$	
11. PRIMARY SPECIALTY (List number, title and years and months in specialty. List additional specialty numbers and dates involving periods of one or more years.)		12. RECORD OF SERVICE	
A		a. DATE ENTERED AD THIS PERIOD	
		b. SEPARATION DATE THIS PERIOD	
		c. SET ACTIVE SERVICE THIS PERIOD	
		d. TOTAL PRIOR ACTIVE SERVICE	
		e. TOTAL PRIOR INACTIVE SERVICE	
		f. FOREIGN SERVICE	
13. DECORATIONS, MEDALS, BADGES, CITATIONS AND CAMPAIGN RIBBONS AWARDED OR AUTHORIZED (Add periods of service)		14. MILITARY EDUCATION (Course title, number of weeks, and month and year completed)	
15a. COMMISSIONED THROUGH SERVICE ACADEMY		YES NO	
b. COMMISSIONED THROUGH ROTC SCHOLARSHIP (10 USC Sec. 2107a)		YES NO	
c. ENLISTED UNDER LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM (10 USC Chap. 1601 or 1602)		YES NO	
16. DATE ACCRUED LEAVE PAID		17. MEMBER WAS PROVIDED COMPLETE DENTAL EXAMINATION AND ALL APPROPRIATE DENTAL SERVICES AND TREATMENT WITHIN 90 DAYS PRIOR TO SEPARATION	
18. REMARKS		19. MAILING ADDRESS AFTER SEPARATION (Include ZIP Code)	
20. MEMBER REQUESTS COPY 5 BE SENT TO (Specify state/locality)		OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS	
a. MEMBER REQUESTS COPY 3 BE SENT TO THE CENTRAL OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (WASHINGTON, DC)		YES NO	
21a. MEMBER SIGNATURE		22a. OFFICIAL AUTHORIZED TO SIGN (Typed name, grade, title, signature)	
b. DATE (YYYYMMDD)		b. DATE (YYYYMMDD)	
SPECIAL ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (For use by authorized agencies only)			
23. TYPE OF SEPARATION		24. CHARACTER OF SERVICE (Include approved)	
25. SEPARATION AUTHORITY		26. SEPARATION CODE	
27. NARRATIVE REASON FOR SEPARATION		27. REENTRY CODE	
28. DATES OF TIME LOST DURING THIS PERIOD (YYYYMMDD)		29. MEMBER REQUESTS COPY 4 (Initial)	

DD FORM 214, AUG 2009 PREVIOUS EDITION IS OBSOLETE. MEMBER - 4

For Reserve Component servicemembers who separated or retired before that date, ROA continues to advocate for the VA to publish a list of acceptable documents in lieu of a DD Form 214 so National Guard and Reserve Veterans can access benefits and services they have earned.

Eligible DD Form 214-1 recipients are:

- Members who are separated or released from a Reserve Component
- Reserve Component members who transferred to the Individual Ready Reserve or Inactive National Guard
- Reserve Component members transferred to Standby Reserve or Retired Reserve
- Recalled retirees reverting to retired status
- Other circumstances determined by the uniformed service

Blocks of interest on the DD Form 214-1 include:

- Total Active Points
- Total Inactive Points
- Total Career Points
- Total Points for Retired Pay
- Net Component Active Service
- Non-Regular Retirement (NRR) (Yes or No)
- Date Completed Years of Service for NRR Eligibility
- Date of 60th Birthday
- NRR Age Reduction Amount

This is a huge win for Reserve Component member as when separate or retire, they will be issued a DD Form 214 and a DD Form 214-1 which will be an accurate, comprehensive, and universally recognized and accepted form of documentation of their entire service. The servicemember can, with confidence, present to federal, state, and local agencies and gain proper access to healthcare, certain loans, and burial benefits which require a DD Form 214, which some Guard and Reserve servicemembers were never issued when they separated or retired. ROA still supports legislation that would codify this policy into law, as well as provisions to provide officers regular issuance of the DD Form 214-1 and for issuance upon death of the servicemember as families can still access benefits and need proper documentation.