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Military service records rarely contain family information. Federal pension files may be requested on NATF Form 85. Pension application files generally are most useful to those who are doing genealogical research and contain the most complete information regarding a soldier's military career. We suggest that you first request copies of a soldier's pension file. You should request copies of a bounty-land warrant file or a military record only when no pension file exists. If the veteran's service was during the Revolutionary War, bounty-land warrant applications have been consolidated with pension application papers. You can obtain both files by requesting the pension file only. We will copy complete compiled military service and bounty-land application files. More information about the availability of records pertaining to military service or family histories may be found in our free genealogical information leaflets and forms. You may request these, as well as order additional copies of this form, online at [www.archives.gov/contact](https://www.archives.gov/contact) or by writing to: *Archival Operations Washington D.C., Form 86 – Military, National Archives and Records Administration, 700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20408-0001*. Electronic versions of this and other forms are available on the NARA website, [www.archives.gov](https://www.archives.gov).

The success of our search depends on the completeness and accuracy of the information you provide in blocks 1-13 on this form. Please note that each NATF Form 86 is handled separately. When you send more than one form at a time, you may not receive all of your replies at the same time.

**USE NATF FORM 85 TO OBTAIN COPIES OF  
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Use a separate NATF Form 86 for each file that you request. You must complete blocks 1 – 6 or we cannot search for the file. Print your name (last, first, MI) and address in the box provided at the bottom of the form. This serves as your mailing label. **We destroy requests without return addresses.** Please enter the Card Validation Code in the space provided on the form. For Master Card, Visa and Discover, this is a three digit code found on the back of the card. For American Express this is a four digit code printed on the front of the card. When we search your order, we will make reproductions of records that relate to your request. We accept MasterCard, VISA, American Express, and Discover credit cards. Do NOT send cash or check. Forms with incomplete Credit Card information will be destroyed. **Make a copy of the completed form for your records.** Mail it to: *Archival Operations Washington D.C., Form 86 – Military, National Archives and Records Administration, 700 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20408-0001*. Please allow up to 90 days for processing your order. You will receive a postcard acknowledging receipt of your order and providing our tracking number. You can track the status of your order at our website, [eservices.archives.gov/orderonline](https://eservices.archives.gov/orderonline). Do not use this form to request certified copies of records. To request certified copies contact us at [www.archives.gov/contact](https://www.archives.gov/contact) or write to the above address. We cannot provide digital certifications.

## TYPES OF RECORDS THAT CAN BE ORDERED WITH THIS FORM

### **ARMY SERVICE RECORDS**

Military service records are based on service in the UNITED STATES ARMY (officers who served before June 30, 1917, and enlisted men who served before October 31, 1912) and CONFEDERATE ARMED FORCES (officers and enlisted men, 1861-65). In addition to persons who served in regular forces raised by the Federal Government, volunteers fought in various wars chiefly in the Federal Government's interest from the Revolutionary War through the Philippine Insurrection, 1775-1902.

Compilations of information concerning Army service in volunteer organizations during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries are available. Such records were not compiled for Regular Army officers who served before 1863 and for Regular Army enlisted men who served during most of the nineteenth century. Records pertaining to that service tend to be limited. We will copy those records which pertain to the soldier in question that can be retrieved by name. This will not represent all of the information scattered among a variety of records. We are not able to undertake the research required to locate all such documents.

The record of an individual's service in any one organization is entirely separate from his record of service in another organization. We are unable to establish accurately the identity of individuals of the same name who served in different organizations. If you know that an individual served in more than one organization and you desire copies of all of the military service records, submit a separate form for the service record in each organization.

Discharge certificates are not usually included as a part of a compiled military service record. Before 1944, Army regulations allowed the preparation of an original discharge certificate only, which was given to the soldier. Confederate soldiers in service at the time of surrender did not receive discharge certificates. They were given paroles, and these paroles became the property of the soldier.

### **NAVY OR MARINE CORPS SERVICE RECORDS**

There are no compiled service records for Navy or Marine Corps personnel. Do not use this form to obtain information about obtaining reproductions of records relating to Navy or Marine Corps service. You may obtain information by contacting us online at [www.archives.gov/contact](http://www.archives.gov/contact) or by writing to *Archival Operations Washington D.C., Form 86 – Military, National Archives and Records Administration, 700 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20408-0001*.

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