How to Get Your Medals

So, you want to get your well-deserved medals. Just follow these simple steps and you'll have them in no time.

You can also fill out your request online at www.vetrecs.archives.gov. It may take a little time (as long as three months in some instances), but rest assured, you will get the awards you deserve.

**STEP 1:** Obtain a Standard Form 180 (SF 180) available at www.archives.gov/research/order. Mail it to the appropriate address listed below based on your military service. Be sure to fill out the SF 180 as completely as you can. **Service and social security numbers must be included.** If you do not have the requested information, write "NA," meaning the information is "not available."

**STEP 2:** Once your request has been processed, it will be forwarded to the facility from which the medals are mailed. You will receive a response showing which medals were verified for Army and Air Force veterans. For Navy, Coast Guard and Marines, you will receive a referral letter from NPRC.

**STEP 3:** If you experience problems with the verification process, write to the address listed for your military service. To check the status of your request, you can e-mail: mpr.status@nara.gov.

**SERVICE** | **WHERE TO WRITE FOR MEDALS DOCUMENTATION**
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ARMY | National Personnel Records Center 1 Archives Drive St. Louis, MO 63138
AIR FORCE | National Personnel Records Center (Including Army Air Corps and Army Air Forces) 1 Archives Drive St. Louis, MO 63138
NAVY | Navy Personnel Command Liaison Office Room 350 1 Archives Drive St. Louis, MO 63138
MARINE CORPS | Navy Personnel Command Liaison Office Room 350 1 Archives Drive St. Louis, MO 63138
COAST GUARD | Navy Personnel Command Liaison Office Room 350 1 Archives Drive St. Louis, MO 63138

**ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS**
- If the REFRAID date, discharge date, retirement date or date of death in service is more than 62 years old, the record is considered "archival," and replacement medals will only be processed at the request of the living veteran, retiree or next-of-kin (children or surviving, unmarried spouse).
- With the exception of the Coast Guard, the military service departments no longer transfer records to NPRC. In some cases, NPRC may have to refer the medals request to the appropriate service department. This is especially true for Air Force, Army records are accessible by NFRC staff through DPRIS for those separated/retired 1992 or later.

- Current members of the military should contact their unit or purchase replacement medals at their clothing sales/ PX.
- In most cases, only a single set of replacement medals will be issued, and generally only to the veteran and next of kin.
- Personnel whose records were lost in the 1973 fire should include a copy of the separation document (WD 53-55 and/or DD 214) with the eVetRecs signature page or SF-180.
Help for those who need it

The Department of Veterans Affairs has launched a new website, www.va.gov/suicideprevention, to provide resources and assistance for the families of veterans and families living with PTSD, including guidance for those experiencing life after combat. The website offers information on how to help a loved one, contact information for local VA facilities, and links to other resources.

Family of a Vet offers resources and assistance for families of veterans and families living with PTSD, including information on the unique challenges faced by families of veterans. The website offers guidance on how to help a loved one, contact information for local VA facilities, and links to other resources.

Give an Hour provides free mental health care to veterans, veterans' families, and military personnel.

Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) provides grief support for families who have lost a loved one in combat, training accidents, or to suicide or illness.

Not Alone offers support for service members and families, particularly those dealing with PTSD.

Her War, Her Voice offers support for the families of female service members, particularly those who deploy.

Veterans Crisis Line offers immediate support for veterans in crisis.

National Center for PTSD offers resources and information on PTSD and related conditions.

For more information or to speak with a professional, please visit the websites listed above.