



2nd Battalion 1st Infantry Chapter,  
Americal Division Veterans Association (ADVA)  
WEBSITE: [www.b-2-1-196lib.com](http://www.b-2-1-196lib.com)



Volume 2

## "A Soldier's Footsteps"

February 2012

**Commander's Corner:** Fellow grunts and associates we have added three new members last month; Allen K. Hoe (E/HHC), Ed Ens (E) and Tom Ellis (B). We now have 63 members and, hopefully, will continue to grow as rapidly this year as we did in 2011. Please help us spread the word so we can try to locate as many former 2/1 brothers as we can possibly find. I have received some leads on guys belonging to other veteran's organizations and some of the other chapters and will be attempting to contact them regarding our chapter. I have been busy getting links to our site added to other veterans related sites and have, in turn, added them to our "Links" page. Please give them a visit. Also, we now have some updated information on 2012 reunions on our site. I have started collecting stuff to develop some picture pages from past reunions and need some input from you all. If you send some pictures, please include the group having the reunion, the location, year and the names of any persons in the pix.

Also, if anyone has information regarding "Pops" Lawrence, we've had a few guys interested in finding him. No one seems to recall his actual first name so, that would be a great start if someone remembers it.

As most of you should know by now, Don Hicks is now our official Secretary/Treasurer and is off to a great start getting everything organized and getting the word out regarding the 2012 membership dues. We hated to start asking for dues this year but, in order to keep this thing afloat, we need to cover expenses. Get them to Don as soon as possible, and remember, if for any reason, anyone needs some help with it, please let Don know.

Remember Rich, Don, and I are here to serve you and help out wherever we can; so, feel free to contact us with any questions, suggestions and/or corrections you may have.

This article had to be submitted prior to the Super Bowl so, as of right now, I have no idea who won. Go Eli! (Just a personal opinion). ***Keep safe and may the bond of battle never be broken!***

Chuck



Can anyone ever forget the fun and games we used to play when we were young. Here is a picture to bring you back to reality. There were no games and it wasn't fun!

**196th Traps NVA Force, Kills 66 in Mountain Battle:** Three 196<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade companies, inching forward through thickly tangled undergrowth along steep mountain slopes, killed 66 NVA who were part of quickly retreating elements of the 2<sup>nd</sup> NVA Division, 25 miles west of Tam Ky, Republic of Vietnam. Initial contact for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry companies came early on the fourth day of Operation Fayette Canyon. The operation originally began on December 15, 1968 after intelligence reports indicated an estimated 1,000 NVA were securing a hospital complex and supply depots atop hill 953. The action started when elements of B company, led by Captain John Malpass (Larchmont, NY) spotted about 40 NVA with packs and weapons moving along the steep cliffs of a lower ridgeline. "As we watched, they just kept coming until there must have been close to a hundred of them." Said CPT Malpass. Co. B first called for artillery and gunships and then opened up with a barrage of plunging machinegun and small arms fire, dropping many of the NVA headlong from their precarious cliff-side perches. As the last gunship broke station, Bravo called for an emergency resupply of ammunition. Then came the slow, tortuous move down the mountain, into the enemy base camp, over rocky cliffs, thick undergrowth, and along jungle trails strewn with debris from bombs dropped earlier by B-52s. "There were no acts of heroism up there on the hill," said CPT Malpass, "but coming down it was all individual effort, clearing them out from bunker to bunker." A and C companies blocked ridgelines to the North and West, while Company B swept into the base camp of 75 bunkers. They encountered sporadic fire from the defending NVA who were making a last ditch effort. The total number of enemy dead rising as scattered fighting continued within the "Charger" wedge. B-52 raids, gunships, airstrikes, and artillery missions made a large contribution to the total NVA killed. One enemy soldier ran away from Bravo troops and fled directly into Company A's position. He prudently shouted: "Chieu Hoi," (I give up). He later told A Company interrogators that the NVA column the 196<sup>th</sup> had engaged on that 4<sup>th</sup> day of action had been the rear element of a 400 man main force moving toward Hoi An. On the same day, Company C, commander by CPT Charles A. Slaybauch, (Lake View, Ohio) reported a second base camp approximately 1,000 meters west of the first one. This article was taken from the New York Times. Sent in by Pete Vander Haeghen.

**Medal of Honor:** 150 years ago in 1861, during the first winter of the American Civil War, Congress authorized the nation's first Medals of Honor—for exemplary men of the U.S. Navy. The Medal of Honor is the highest award given to military personnel for valor in battle and was later authorized for other branches.



**V A Deploying Mobile Centers:** The Department of Veterans Affairs has deployed 20 additional Mobile Vet Centers. These customized vehicles travel to communities to extend VA's reach to veterans, service members and their families, especially those living in rural or remote communities. VA has 300 Vet Centers across the country offering individual and group counseling for veterans and their families, family counseling for military related issues, bereavement counseling for families who experience an active duty death, employment assessment and referral, VA benefits explanation and referral, screening and referral for medical issues and other services. To find out more about Vet Center services or find a Vet Center in your area, visit VA's Vet Center webpage at [www.vetcenter.va.gov](http://www.vetcenter.va.gov).

**E uropean Unit Withdrawals Could be Only 1st Step:** The Pentagon's decision to withdraw two Army brigade combat teams from Europe is just the first step in a larger, working plan that could cut 10 BCTs from the service's active force. In the face of pending budget cuts, the Army is considering cutting five heavy BCTs and five infantry BCTs, shrinking its ground force from 45 to 35 BCTs, according to a senior Army official. But cutting 10 BCTs would only get the active force down to 520,000, a number selected to right-size the force after Iraq and Afghanistan and absorb some of the \$450 billion in reductions to the Defense Department's budget growth over the next 10 years. An additional \$500 billion in "sequestration" cuts to defense spending, however, is likely to force the Army to cut tens of thousands additional Soldiers from its ranks. The Army is keeping quiet about official details, but Army spokesman Col. Tom Collins said the service intends to announce its formal plan for cutting the active force in the coming weeks. Currently, the Army's active ground force is made up of 22 infantry BCTs, 15 heavy BCTs, seven Stryker BCTs and the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, which has been designated to transform into another Stryker BCT. For now, the Army plans to retain all of its Stryker BCTs. Stryker units are the largest in the BCT structure, with three maneuver battalions. It's still unclear which of the five heavy and five infantry BCTs the Army will cut from the active force, but combat capability and strategic location inside the U.S. and abroad are some of the considerations Army planners will look at when cutting, said the official who spoke to Military.com. Army leaders say 520,000 is the right number for the active component. Army planners would have to get very creative if the economic state of the country forces the service to cut to a number below 500,000.

**P ersian Gulf Claims Deadline Extended:** The Department of Veterans Affairs has extended the presumptive period for Persian Gulf War veterans to file claims for undiagnosed illnesses. The new deadline is Dec. 31, 2016. The Department of Veterans Affairs estimates that 25-35 percent of veterans of Desert Shield/Desert Storm have undiagnosed and chronic multi-symptom illnesses, such as chronic fatigue syndrome, fibromyalgia, irritable bowel syndrome and concentration problems. For more information, visit VA's [Gulf War Illnesses website](http://www.va.gov/gulfwarillnesses).

Keep your head in the clouds... you're the first to know when it rains, and it's easier to see the silver lining.

**T ip of the month: Email:** Most people receive a lot of bogus emails regarding sob stories and tales of unimaginable things. The true/false or fact/fiction reliability of these may be verified via [snopes.com](http://snopes.com) and/or [truthorfiction.com](http://truthorfiction.com). Both are excellent sites. Snopes.com also offers this advice.

Any time you see an email that says "forward this on to '10' (or however many) of your friends", "sign this petition", or "you'll get bad luck" or "you'll get good luck" or "you'll see something funny on your screen after you send it" or whatever -- **it almost always has an email tracker program attached** that tracks the cookies and emails of those folks you forward to. The host sender is getting a copy each time it gets forwarded and then is able to get lists of 'active' email addresses to use in SPAM emails or sell to other Spammers. Even when you get emails that demand you send the email on if you're not ashamed of God/Jesus --- **that is email tracking**, and they are playing on our conscience.

These people don't care how they get your email addresses - just as long as they get them. Also, emails that talk about a missing child or a child with an incurable disease "how would you feel if that was your child" --- email tracking. Ignore them and don't participate!

Almost all emails that ask you to add your name and forward on to others are similar to the mass letters years ago that asked people to send business cards to the little kid in Florida who wanted to break the Guinness Book of Records for the most cards. All it was, and all any of this type of email is, is a way to get names and 'cookie' tracking information for telemarketers and Spammers -- to validate active email accounts for their own profitable purposes.

You can do your Friends and Family members a GREAT favor by sending this information to them. You will be providing a service to your friends. And you will be rewarded by not getting thousands of spam emails in the future.

Do yourself a favor and **stop** adding your name (s) to those types of listing regardless how inviting they might sound or how guilty they want to make you feel. You may think you are supporting a great cause, but you are not! It's all about getting email addresses and nothing more. Instead, you will be getting tons of junk mail later and very possibly a virus attached! Plus, we are helping the Spammers get rich! Let's not make it easy for them!

Finally, Email petitions are **not** acceptable to Congress or any other government organization - I.e. Social security, etc. To be acceptable, petitions must have a "signed signature" and full address of the person signing the petition, so this is a waste of time and you are just helping the email trackers.

**E ditors Notes:** *Newsletters* are uploaded to the 2nd Battalion Chapter Website. If you missed an issue, look on the Website. The Web address in the heading of the N/L. Take a look at our newly developed Chapter LOGO. Do you like it? If you have anything relating to this N/L, email or write them at the following addresses; Email: [rheroux1@nc.rr.com](mailto:rheroux1@nc.rr.com) or [gcarder@columbus.rr.com](mailto:gcarder@columbus.rr.com). Snail mail: Rich Heroux, 2005 Montgomery Road, Franklinton, NC 27525-7300 or Gary Carder, 1725 Demorest Road, Columbus, OH 43228.

But We ... shall be remembered; We few, we happy few, we band of brothers; For he today that sheds his blood with me Shall be my brother.

- William Shakespeare



**Rescue Dog Saves Disabled Vet from Depression-Pets for Patriots:** When depression took its toll on a disabled Vietnam veteran whose dog had just died, he knew it was time to save another last-chance rescue dog. In the process, he saved himself. Frank joined the Navy in 1974 as a cryptology and radar specialist. He spent 20 months on an aircraft carrier off the Vietnam coast. After his honorable discharge in 1980, Frank worked at General Dynamics, Delta Airlines and Boeing. In 2003, he got injured and has since been disabled. Without a clear sense of purpose, Frank decided to rescue a miniature Schnauzer, 11 year-old Otto, and train him as a service dog. Otto eventually died and Frank was without a pet for almost three months. The absence took a heavy toll. Frank spotted Gus, another miniature Schnauzer, at a Los Angeles shelter. "Being an adult shelter dog in that condition, he was not the kind of dog people would want to take home. After a 20 minute ride home, he slowly came closer and ended up in my lap with his head on my left shoulder for the rest of the trip." The name on his dog tag is Gustav, grandfather, but called a savior. pet and person months between noticed the differences. "Everyone Otto first and have brought a They've been and drawers and the floor so I but it's more than support Otto and Gus have given me is amazing." "Gus serves as an awareness guide as I'm blind in my right eye and deaf in my right ear. He'll bark to let me know if something's going on I should know about. Formally sedentary, Frank now walks three miles a day with Gus. His blood pressure and weight has been reduced and his mood has improved. Increased stability and stamina also comes from daily walks. *Pets for Patriots, Inc.*, is a registered 501(c)(3) charity that helps service and veteran members of the United States military honorably adopt adult and at-risk shelter pets. Its mission is to give the gifts of fidelity, joy and companionship to both pet and person. Pets for Patriots is one of the only organizations in the country dedicated to both homeless pets and military personnel from all armed forces. The charity is a proud member of the *Army AW2 Wounded Warrior Program* national community support network, a national partner of the Real Warriors Campaign and is listed by the National Resource Directory for ill and wounded veterans. Visit *Pets for Patriots* online today and Be A Pet's Hero(TM).



**FIVE RULES FOR MEN TO FOLLOW FOR A HAPPY LIFE:** 1.. It's important to have a woman who helps at home, cooks from time to time, cleans up, and has a job. 2. It's important to have a woman who can make you laugh. 3. It's important to have a woman who you can trust, and doesn't lie to you. 4. It's important to have a woman who is good in bed, and likes to be with you. 5. And this is very, very important! That these four women do not know each other.

**Ensuring Opportunities for Our Troops Returning From the Front Lines:** Last month, the U.S. officially withdrew all of its troops from Iraq, ending the eight-year conflict where more than 1.5 million Americans served. This January, our nation must recommit to meeting the needs of the men and women who served on the battlefield—particularly the thousands of brave American veterans slated to enter the job market as the military draws down its ranks. We've already seen daunting unemployment numbers among those who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan, and now that the colors have been cased from Iraq. More veterans will be entering the civilian economy. To ensure that veterans have the economic opportunities they deserve, three major issues to ensure our newest generation of veterans can compete in a cut-throat job market. The Hire Heroes Act must be monitored for improving the implementation of its major provisions, such as mandatory transition assistance training, increased leverage for local veterans' employment counselors, and new tax credits for wounded warriors and unemployed veterans. Veterans groups are working with Congress to close loopholes in USERRA policy, like the reemployment rights exemption for the Transportation Security Administration, ensuring that service members and veterans are protected against discrimination and termination as a result of their military service obligations. Veteran groups are also working with Congress and leaders in higher education to ensure that student-veterans have access to the quality educational opportunities they were promised, holding benefits administrators and academic institutions accountable for their services.

**Manning Moves One Step Closer to Court-Martial:** PFC. Bradley Manning, a low-ranking intelligence analyst charged in the biggest leak of classified information in U.S. history, is a step closer to a general court-martial, the Army says, after a second officer signed off on the procedure. The 24-year-old faces 22 counts, including aiding the enemy. Manning could be imprisoned for life if convicted of aiding the enemy, the most serious charge. The charge carries a maximum penalty of death. Manning allegedly gave more than 700,000 secret U.S. documents to the anti-secrecy website WikiLeaks for publication. Prosecutors say WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange collaborated with Manning.

**VA Changes Emergency Care Policy:** The Department of Veterans Affairs has announced a change in regulations regarding payments for emergency care provided to eligible veterans in non-VA facilities. The new regulation extends VA's authority to pay for emergency care provided to eligible veterans at non-VA facilities until the veterans can be safely transferred to a VA medical facility. More than 100,000 veterans are estimated to be affected by the new rules. For more information about emergency care in non-VA facilities, visit the [VA website](#).



**Intelligence Study Glum on Afghan War:** In the span of several months, U.S.-backed investigative teams have assembled alarming evidence of rampant corruption in Afghanistan and the extent to which it reaches the highest ranks of that nation's government. The war in Afghanistan is mired in stalemate, and warns that security gains from an increase in American troops have been undercut by pervasive corruption, incompetent governance and Taliban fighters operating from neighboring Pakistan. The sobering judgments, laid out in a classified National Intelligence Estimate completed last month and delivered to the White House, appeared at odds with recent optimistic statements by Pentagon officials and have deepened divisions between U.S. intelligence agencies and American military commanders about progress in the decade-old war. The detailed document that runs more than 100 pages and represents the consensus view of the CIA and 15 other U.S. intelligence agencies challenges the Pentagon's claim to have achieved lasting security gains in Taliban strongholds in southern Afghanistan. In a section looking at future scenarios, the NIE also asserts that the Afghan government in Kabul may not be able to survive as the U.S. steadily pulls out its troops and reduces military and civilian assistance. Although the review gives the U.S. military and its allies credit for driving the Taliban out of some areas last year, it says the gains were not enough to bolster the weak central government, haven't diminished the Taliban's will to keep fighting and haven't instilled confidence among Afghans in much of the country. Military and Pentagon officials argued that assumptions used by intelligence agencies were flawed. Military officials also cited what they say are gaps in the intelligence agencies' understanding of the Taliban leadership's thinking. Army Gen. David H. Petraeus wrote a dissent to last year's NIE when he was U.S. commander in the war. He is now director of the CIA, and he pledged during his Senate confirmation hearings not to allow his personal views as a former commander to color the CIA's analysis. Military officials have acknowledged that there are no easy answers, and that a peace deal may be the only solution.

**Veterans Win PTSD Settlement:** A federal judge has approved a settlement that will deliver better benefits to nearly 2,100 veterans who have been medically discharged since 2002 with post-traumatic stress disorder. Under the settlement, affected veterans discharged with PTSD will get lifetime health care and post-exchange privileges. The affected veterans had been discharged with disability ratings that were too low to receive such benefits. The class action lawsuit was *Sabo v. United States*. Similar legal efforts are currently underway. For more information, visit the [National Veterans Legal Services Program website](#) and the [ptsdlawsuit.com website](#).

**Disability Process Streamlined:** The recently updated [Integrated Disability Evaluation System \(IDES\) Directive-Type Memorandum \(DTM\)](#) includes several major changes to streamline the process for wounded warriors. The Department of Defense uses IDES to determine a Servicemember's fitness for duty. If the Servicemember is found medically unfit for duty by DoD, then they are informed of the proposed VA disability rating before they leave the service so they know the approximate amount of compensation and benefits they will receive from the VA. For more information on the recent updates, read the [Warrior Care Blog](#).

**National Salute to Veteran Patients:** The National Salute to Veteran Patients program encourages Americans to visit and volunteer at the Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers and to send letters of thanks or valentines to those who have protected our nation. This year's national salute is Feb. 12-18. Last year, more than 328,000 valentines were received at VA medical centers, and 21,330 people visited nearly 70,000 veteran patients. For more information regarding the National Salute to Veteran Patients and volunteer opportunities at a local VA medical center, visit the VA Voluntary Service webpage at [www.volunteer.va.gov](http://www.volunteer.va.gov).

**HealthVet Undergoes Testing:** Results of the first usability test of VA's MyHealthVet program indicate a need for improvements in usability. First-time users were monitored on their use of the commonly used four functions of the program: registration, prescription refill, the health tracker and health information search. Only 25% of participants successfully completed registration. Most participants had privacy concerns, expressed interest in printing their information to share with their doctors and questioned the value of the program when compared with existing [online health information](#), according to the study. For more details, visit the [Department of Veterans Affairs MyHealthVet webpage](#); [www.myhealth.va.gov/mhv-portal-web/anonymous.portal?\\_nfpb=true&\\_nfto=false&\\_pageLabel=mhvHome](http://www.myhealth.va.gov/mhv-portal-web/anonymous.portal?_nfpb=true&_nfto=false&_pageLabel=mhvHome)

**Do you Remember Receiving This Email?** Hello Fellow Troopers... Thirty wounded warriors will bicycle into Key West as part of the National SOLDIER RIDE. Some of these fellows are just out of Walter Reed Hospital this week...so really this is their first "Welcome Home" by the general public. As part of our local Military Affairs Committee I have been given the honor of chairing this event, which will include a Friday night dinner for the troops, a Welcome Ceremony, and general public and local military "Ride Along" with the soldiers. If you would like to contribute a few bucks (\$10 is fine) to the Wounded Warrior Project, I have set up a donation page with my name with a \$196 fund raising goal to honor our 196 LIB brothers. ***Jerry received over \$400. Thanks for your contributions in support of this worthwhile project. Picture was***



## Military Awards and Decorations

[How Do I Request Military Awards and Decorations?](#)

[Important information for Next-of-Kin](#)

[Cold War Recognition Certificate](#)

The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) does not issue service medals; that is a function of each military service department. Requests for the issuance or replacement of military service medals, decorations and awards should be directed to the specific branch of the military in which the veteran served. However, for cases involving Air Force and Army personnel (click [here](#) for exceptions), the NPRC will verify the awards to which a veteran is entitled and forward the request along with the records verification to the appropriate service department for issuance of the medals. Use the addresses listed below, and mail your request accordingly

How Do I Request Military Awards and Decorations?

**For the Veteran:** in general, the military services will work replacement medal requests for the veteran at no cost. This includes family members with the [signed authorization](#) of the veteran.

**For the Next-of-Kin:** the process (and cost) for replacement medals requests differs among the service branches and is dependent upon who is requesting the medal, particularly if the request involves an archival record. Click [here](#) for details.

**For the General Public:** if the service member separated from military service **before 1950**, the public may [purchase a copy of the veteran's Official Military Personnel File \(OMPF\)](#) to determine the awards due and obtain the medals from a commercial source. If the service member separated **after 1949**, the public may request such information from the OMPF via the Freedom of Information Act ([see Access to OMPFs by the General Public](#)).

<a href="#">Army</a>	<a href="#">Air Force (includes Army Air Corps and Army Air Forces)</a>	<a href="#">Navy</a>
<a href="#">Marine Corps</a>	<a href="#">Coast Guard</a>	<a href="#">Cold War Certificates</a>

ARMY	
Where to write for medals	National Personnel Records Center 1 Archives Drive St. Louis, MO 63138 or  <a href="#">REQUEST MEDALS ONLINE!</a>
Where medals are mailed from	U.S. Army TACOM Clothing and Heraldry (PSID) P.O. Box 57997 Philadelphia, PA 19111-7997
Where to write in case of a problem or an appeal	U.S. Army Human Resources Command Soldier Program and Services Division - Awards and Decorations Branch ATTN: AHRC-PDP-A 1600 Spearhead Division Avenue, Dept 480 Fort Knox, KY 40122-5408

**AIR FORCE**  
(includes Army Air Corps & Army Air Forces)

Where to write for medals	National Personnel Records Center 1 Archives Drive St. Louis, MO 63138 or	
Where medals are mailed from, and where to write in case of a problem or an appeal	<b>Active Duty Veterans</b>	<b>Reserve &amp; Air Guard Veterans</b>
	Headquarters Air Force Personnel Center AFPC/DPPPR 550 C Street West, Suite 12 Randolph AFB, TX 78150-4714	Headquarters Air Reserve Personnel Center (ARPC)/DPSVN 6760 E. Irvington Place Denver, CO 80280-4000

**NAVY**

Where to write for medals, and where medals are mailed from	Navy Personnel Command Liaison Office Room 350 1 Archives Drive St. Louis, MO 63138
Where to write in case of a problem or an appeal	Chief of Naval Operations (OPNAV 09B33) Awards & Special Projects Washington, DC 20350-2000

**MARINE CORPS**

Where to write for medals, and where medals are mailed from	Navy Personnel Command Liaison Office Room 350 1 Archives Drive St. Louis, MO 63138
Where to write in case of a problem or an appeal	Commandant of the Marine Corps Military Awards Branch (MMA) 3280 Russell Road Quantico, VA 22134-5100

**COAST GUARD**

Where to write for medals, and where medals are mailed from	Navy Personnel Command Liaison Office Room 350 1 Archives Drive St. Louis, MO 63138
Where to write in case of a problem or an appeal	Commandant U.S. Coast Guard Medals and Awards Branch (PMP-4) Washington, DC 20593-0001



## Important Information for the Next-of-Kin (NOK):

### Who is the Next-of-Kin (NOK)?

For the **Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps & Coast Guard**, the NOK is defined as: *the un-remarried widow or widower, son, daughter, father, mother, brother or sister*

For the **Army**, the NOK is defined as: *the surviving spouse, eldest child, father or mother, eldest sibling or eldest grandchild*  
If you do not meet the definition of NOK, you are considered a member of the [general public](#).

### How the type of record (archival or non-archival) affects NOK requests for medals:

The Official Military Personnel File (OMPF) is used to verify awards to which a veteran may be entitled. OMPFs are accessioned into the National Archives, and become archival, **62 years after** the service member's separation from the military. This is a rolling date; hence, the current year, 2011, minus 62 years is 1949. Records with a discharge date of 1949 or prior are archival and are open to the public. Records with a discharge date of 1949 or after are non-archival and are maintained under the Federal Records Center program. Non-archival records are subject to access restrictions. As such, the veteran's date of separation (separation is defined as discharge, retirement or death in service) will affect how the request is processed. See below:

NEXT-OF-KIN, MEDAL REQUESTS		
Veteran's Separation Date	Army	Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, & Coast Guard
If the veteran separated from military service <b>before 1950</b>	Requests are accepted at NO COST	These Services do not accept NOK archival requests. The NOK may <a href="#">purchase a copy of the veteran's OMPF</a> to determine the awards due and obtain the medals from a commercial source
If the veteran separated from military service <b>after 1949</b>	Requests are accepted at NO COST	Requests are accepted at

### Cold War Recognition Certificate:

In accordance with section 1084 of the Fiscal Year 1998 National Defense Authorization Act, the Secretary of Defense approved awarding Cold War Recognition Certificates to all members of the armed forces and qualified Federal government civilian personnel who faithfully served the United States during the Cold War era from September 2, 1945 to December 26, 1991.

### How Do I apply for a Cold War Recognition Certificate?

While the NPRC provides proof of service and separation documents; the Center does not supply the Certificate itself, nor does it have the application form available. For more information concerning the application process visit the [Cold War Recognition Certificate](#) webpage.

### What Service does the NPRC Provide?

The NPRC, upon request, will provide copies of [DD-214s](#) (or equivalent) or SF-50s to authorized requesters. These documents may be used to apply for the Certificate. For information on how to obtain a copy of your DD-214 (for military service personnel) or SF-50 (for Federal civilian personnel)