

purposes of all laws administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

To be eligible for VA benefits, members of the group must establish:

1. They were civilians employed by Northeast Airlines Atlantic Division as flight crew personnel (pilot, co-pilot, navigator, flight engineer, radio operator), or

2. They were civilians employed by Northeast Airlines Atlantic Division as aviation ground support personnel (aircraft mechanic, station manager, dispatcher), and

3. Served outside the continental United States in direct support of Air Transport Command-directed flight operations during the period December 7, 1941 through August 14, 1945.

Qualifying periods of time are computed from the date of departure from the continental United States to the date of return to the continental United States.

Application Procedures

Before an individual can receive any VA benefits, the person must first apply for an Armed Forces Discharge Certificate (Department of Defense (DD) Form 214) by filling out a DD Form 2168 and sending it to the US Air Force Personnel Center at the following address: AFPC/DPPRP, 550 C St. West, Suite 11, Randolph Air Force Base, TX 78150-4713.

Important: Applicants must attach supporting documents to their DD Form 2168 application. Of primary importance will be any employment records from Northeast Airlines. Other supporting documentation might include copies of passports with appropriate entries, flight log books, Army Air Force (AAF) Identification Forms 133, any personal employment records such as commendations regarding ATC performance, employee expense reports of charges to USAAF contracts, medical certifications prior to departure from the US, USAAF passes to leave the limits of an overseas base, military orders, miscellaneous USAAF papers, etc. Additionally, the captain of a flight crew may provide written confirmation for other crew members on his flight.

Upon confirmation of an applicant's eligibility, the DD Form 214 will be passed from AFPC/DPPRP to the Awards and Decorations office to determine which ribbons the applicant is eligible to receive (campaign ribbons, theater ribbons, victory medal, etc.). Specific awards (i.e., Silver Star, Purple Heart, etc.) need separate justification detailing the act, achievement, or service believed to warrant the appropriate medal/ribbon.

DD Forms 2168 are available from VA offices or from the US Air Force offices in this notice.

For further information contact Mr. James D. Johnston, Secretary of the Air Force Personnel Council (SAFPC), 1535 Command Drive-3d Floor-EE Wing, Andrews Air Force Base, MD 20762-7002.

Benefit Information

A determination of "active duty" under Public Law 95-202 is "for the purposes of all laws administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs" (Sec 106, 38 USC). Benefits are not retroactive and do not include such things as increased military or Federal Civil Service retirement pay, or a military burial detail, for example. Entitlement to state veterans benefits vary and are governed by each state. Therefore, for specific benefits information, contact your nearest Veterans Affairs Office and your state veterans service office after you have received your DD Form 214.

Barbara A. Carmichael,

Air Force Federal Register Liaison Officer.
[FR Doc. 97-17550 Filed 7-3-97; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Air Force

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

ACTION: Notice.

In compliance with Section 3506 (c) (2)(A) of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the Department of the Air Force announces the proposed reinstatement of the Statement of Suspect/Witness/Complainants form and seeks public comment on the provisions thereof. Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the function of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the information collection on respondents, including through the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

DATES: Consideration will be given to all comments received by September 5, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and recommendations on the proposed

information collection should be sent to HQ USAF/SFO, 1340 Air Force Pentagon, ATTN: Major Nelson Jackson, Room: VC917, Washington, DC 20330-1340.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request more information on this proposed information collection or to obtain a copy of the proposal and associated collection instruments, please write to the above address, or call the Security Forces Operations Division at (703) 588-0017.

Title, Associated Form, and OMB Number: Statement of Suspect/Witness/Complainant, AF Form 1168, OMB Number 0701-0128.

Needs and Uses: The completed form is used as the source document to record information and details of criminal activity which may require investigative action by commanders, supervisors, security police, AFOSI agents, etc. It is used to provide information to the appropriate individuals within the DoD organization who ensure proper legal and administrative action is taken. Failure to collect the data from witnesses and complainants will degrade the positive identification of offenders/victims, and subsequent resolution of criminal activity.

Affected Public: Individuals or households, state and local governments, small businesses or organizations.

Annual Burden Hours: 55,400.
Number of Respondents: 168,000.
Responses per Respondent: 1.
Frequency: On occasion.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Summary of Information Collection

Respondents are personnel who are suspects, accused persons, witnesses, or complainants. This form is used to document their official statements to military police officers. Additionally, it is used to document advisement of rights. If the form is not used, an official statement may come into question on the authenticity of statements given to police officials. This form is essential in maintaining standard police processes.

Barbara A. Carmichael,

Air Force Federal Register Liaison Officer.
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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Air Force

Proposed Collection; Comment Request

ACTION: Notice.
