

Frequently Asked Questions: Merchant Mariner Record Requests

1. Does the National Maritime Center (NMC) process requests for Air Force, Army Coast Guard, Marines, and Navy Military Service Records?

No. Requests for Military Personnel Records need to be made through the [National Personnel Records Center](#).

2. What documentation is required to request a record?

- Proper consent of release in the form of a typed or written and signed request
- An e-mail from the mariner and a verification that the individual submitting is the mariner
- A DD Form 2168 containing the signature of the mariner (if mariner is submitting a request for a WWII DD Form 214).

3. What paperwork is required to receive a copy of a deceased merchant mariner's record?

- A copy of the Death Certificate (DC) or proof of death status through SSDI check, obituary, etc.
- Power of Attorney (POA)
- Court order from a federal court of competent jurisdiction.

4. How long does it take to receive a copy of a mariner's record once it is requested?

The NMC makes every attempt to respond to record requests in less than 30 days. However, because the NMC does not have the storage capacity to house merchant mariner service records, some records must be requested from other storage facilities. Requests received by the NMC are processed in the order they are received.