

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: Why am I having trouble downloading files and why does my computer lock up?**

**A:** Many of the documents in this repository are available as Portable Document Format (PDF) files. If you do not have the latest Adobe Acrobat Reader on your computer, go to <http://www.adobe.com/prodindex/acrobat/readstep.html> to download the free Adobe Reader. The problem may be that, although you downloaded the latest version of the free Adobe Acrobat "Reader" software, you did not install it; or, you are using an obsolete version of Acrobat Reader. The specific installation procedures will vary depending on the setup of your individual browser and computer system.

If you are using Adobe Acrobat version 7 and are still having problems, please send a message describing the problems you are encountering to the [AHECWebmaster](#). An Email message will not automatically produce an immediate response. **(RESEARCH INQUIRIES ARE NOT ACCEPTED** by the AHEC Webmaster. If you submit a research question to AHEC Webmaster, you will not receive a reply).

**Q: What information about a particular Army unit can USAMHI provide?**

**A:** Depending on the war or campaign of interest, the information we have on a specific unit varies greatly. The U.S. Army Military History Institute (USAMHI) is not a repository for official unit records, rosters, or morning reports, which are held by the National Archives and Records Administration (see below). Generally, for each major war, we can suggest/identify materials most likely to provide information about the unit in question. In some cases, we will not have any information on a specific unit. Requests which concern the service of a relative or ancestor are answered by our volunteer staff. Due to the increasing numbers of such requests, response times are increasing, and can vary from weeks to six months. Official inquiries will be answered first, and family history inquiries will be answered as our volunteer resources permit. You are welcome to hire local researchers.

**Q: Where can I find a history of a particular Army unit?**

**A:** USAMHI maintains an extensive collection of unit histories. Bibliographies for such histories can be accessed online at: [Resource Guides/Finding Aids](#). Look under "Reference Bibliographies". Once a history has been identified you can contact your local library to inquire about interlibrary loan possibilities. You may also wish to investigate out-of-print book dealers to purchase such items. Note that many of the unit histories are not available for interlibrary loan due to their rarity and/or condition.

**Q: What information about an ancestor or a relative can USAMHI provide?**

**A:** The information we hold about specific people is variable; in most cases it may simply be name in an index, unit roster, unit yearbook, or unit history. Our biographical files contain miscellaneous information about a limited number of senior leaders, mostly general officers. USAMHI does not hold information about birth dates, parentage,

descendents, medical records, service records, or award orders, except in the rare instance in which we hold that person's personal papers, or a biography exists. Family history inquiries are answered by our volunteer staff. Due to the increasing numbers of such requests, response times are increasing, and can vary from weeks to six months. Official inquiries will be answered first, and family history inquiries will be answered as our volunteer resources permit. You are welcome to hire local researchers.

**Q: How do I find information about what my relative did in the Army? (Trace their route of march, find out where they served, etc.)**

**A:** You should start by identifying the unit with which your relative served. If you already have that information, then you should check for unit histories or look into the official records created by the unit itself. If you do not know the unit to which they were assigned, then you should try to obtain a copy of your relative's personnel records to determine that information (see below).

**Q: Can you tell me what unit my ancestor served in?**

**A:** For some time periods we have alphabetical listings of Army personnel but, for the most part, we cannot take a name and place it in a unit. The best resources we have for such a search are for the Civil War; however, even for this war, the reference tools vary greatly from state to state in coverage and quality. We also have alphabetical lists of names of persons who filed for pensions based upon service in the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Mexican War and Regular Army service in the Indian Wars. We do not have any such inventories or lists of personnel from later conflicts, the World Wars, Korea, Vietnam or the Gulf War.

**Q: How can I obtain copies of U.S. Army personnel records for myself or for family members?**

**A:** The Institute does not possess individual military service records of soldiers from any time period. Such records of soldiers (enlisted personnel through October 1912 and officers prior to July 1917) are on file at the National Archives and Records Administration, Textual Archives Services Division, 700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20408-0001. Copies of extant pension and service records can be purchased from that agency. A search for information on these records should begin at: <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/pre-ww-1-records.html>.

If they were not destroyed by a 1973 fire, records of enlisted personnel after October 1912 and officers after June 1917 are in the custody of the [National Personnel Records Center](#), 9700 Page Boulevard, St. Louis, MO 63132-5100. Information concerning required procedures and forms are available at:

<http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/get-service-records.html>.

**Q: Where can I find official Army unit records?**

**A:** The U.S. National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) is the official custodian of the records that have been retired by the U.S. Army. General information

on records can be found on that agency's website: <http://www.archives.gov>. Records are held at two different physical locations, determined by the time period in question:

Prior to 1939:

*Military Reference Branch*

National Archives and Records Administration  
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20408-0001  
Tel. 202-501-5430/ 1-866-272-6272

From 1939 onward, including units that served in Southeast Asia:

*Modern Military Records*

National Archives and Records Administration  
8601 Adelphi Road  
College Park, MD 20740-6001  
Tel. 301-837-3510

**Q: Where can I find Army unit rosters and unit morning reports?**

**A:** Certain unit rosters and morning reports have been detached from the main body of unit records and placed in the custody of the: National Personnel Records Center (MPR), 9700 Page Boulevard, St. Louis, MO 63132. For information about these collections, visit their website at: <http://www.archives.gov/st-louis/military-personnel/morning-reports-and-unit-rosters.html>.

**Q: I have a relative that was killed during the war and is buried overseas, where can I find information about the cemetery and burial site?**

**A:** The American Battle Monuments Commission is responsible for the maintenance of permanent American military burial grounds in foreign countries. You can get additional information from the Commission's website at: <http://www.abmc.gov/>.

**Q: How can I locate a U.S. Army veteran?**

**A:** The U.S. Army Military History Institute does not maintain such information, and the release of personnel information is strictly governed by the Privacy Act. You might find the information you are seeking by placing an advertisement in veterans' magazines or a posting on veterans' websites which have special reunion columns. Another possibility would be to use one of the free "People Finders" search engines available through the internet.

**Q: Where can I get maps?**

**A:** Maps pertaining to the history of the Army are found in the National Archives and the Library of Congress. USAMHI map holdings are very limited and can be used only on-site. USAMHI does not acquire general-purpose maps. For on-line campaign maps of American wars, go to the US Military Academy History Department website at: <http://www.dean.usma.edu/departments/history/web03/atlases/index.htm>.

**Q: Where are the records of the Carlisle Indian School?**

**A:** The Institute possesses some material on the Carlisle Indian Industrial School, which was located at Carlisle Barracks from 1879 to 1918, and founded by Richard H. Pratt, U.S. Army (whose papers are held by the Yale Library). Our holdings include books, journal articles, files, some of the many newspapers created by students (paper, microfilm, and on CD), school catalogs, 18 boxes of papers (mostly small pamphlets and publications), and photographs. These materials are of only limited use in research concerning specific students. Other locations of materials about the Indian School include:

(1) The National Archives, where the school's administrative and student records, which include more detailed and comprehensive by-name lists of students, are held in Record Group 75 (Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs). Contact the Old Military and Civil Records (NWCTB), National Archives Building, 700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20408-0001; phone 202-501-5395. A description of these records can be found at: <http://www.archives.gov/research/guide-fed-records/groups/075.html>.

(2) The [Cumberland County Historical Society](#), 21 North Pitt Street, Carlisle, (717) 249-7610, which holds additional materials, including photographs.

(3) The Library of Dickinson College, Carlisle, (717) 245-1397;

(4) The Still Picture Branch of the Library of Congress, Washington, DC

(5) The Division of Ethnology, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC

**Q: What is the difference between USAMHI and the Center of Military History (CMH)?**

**A:** USAMHI is a repository for unofficial historical materials pertaining to the history of the U.S. Army. CMH manages the Army Historical Program and prepares official histories of the Army. The Chief of Military History is the principal advisor to the Secretary of the Army and the Chief of Staff, Army, for all historical matters. CMH also is responsible for determination of the lineage and honors of Army units and oversees the Army museum system. The [Center of Military History](#) homepage is an outstanding resource for Army history.

**Q: What are [frequently researched topics](#) from the Center of Military History website?**

**A:** U.S. Army General Officers  
Role of Women & Ethnic/Racial Groups in the Army  
Decorations, Patches and Flags  
U.S. Army Campaigns & Casualties  
Integration of the U.S. Army  
Holidays & Commemorations  
Army National Guard  
Birthdays and/or unit days of the U.S. Army Divisions

Birthdays of the U.S. Army and its component branches  
Oaths of enlistment and oaths of office in the U.S. Army  
"D" signify in D-Day, and the "H" signify in H-Hour  
Research sources for NIKE Air Defense Missile Sites  
Origin of the 21-gun salute  
Difference between artillery shrapnel and shell fragments  
First soldier to accomplish a given task, such as entering Berlin in World War II, first killed on D-Day, or who was the "wealthiest," "youngest," or "oldest" soldier in U.S. Army history?  
How can I locate a U.S. Army veteran?

**Q: Where can I find information about medals or awards given to a family member? How do I get replacement medals or awards for myself or a family member?**

**A:** For individuals still in the Army, the Military Awards Branch, Human Resources Command, is the proponent. Information concerning procedures to request such information can be found at:

<https://www.hrc.army.mil/site/active/TAGD/awards/index.htm> . For individuals no longer in the Army, requests should be directed to the National Personnel Records Center, Medals Section (NRPMA-M), 9700 Page Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63132-5200. Information concerning procedures to request such information can be found at:

<http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/replacement-medals.html#coast>.

**Q: I understand that my unit received a decoration after I left it, how can I verify that information?**

**A:** The proponent for awards to Army units is the Military Awards Branch, Total Army Personnel Command. Information concerning the procedures to request such information can be found at:

<https://www.hrc.army.mil/site/active/TAGD/awards/index.htm>. Look under both "Awards and Decorations" AND "Frequently Asked Questions".

**Q: Where can I find information on unit patches and insignia?**

**A:** The proponent for all heraldic items, flags, patches, insignia, etc., is The Institute of Heraldry, 9325 Gunston Road, Room S-112, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5579. The website for the Institute is: <http://www.tioh.hqda.pentagon.mil/>.

**Q: Where can I find information on the Cold War Certificate?**

**A:** The U.S. Army Human Resources Command has information on the Cold War Recognition Program and handles requests for the Cold War Certificate at:

<https://www.hrc.army.mil/site/active/TAGD/coldwar/default.htm>.

**Q: Where can I find official Army photographs and motion pictures?**

**A:** U.S. Army photographs and motion pictures created prior to 1988 are in the custody of the National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001. You may be able to access additional information about these

holdings from the National Archives and Records Administration website at: <http://www.archives.gov/dc-metro/college-park/>. Official photographs and videos pertaining to the U.S. Army after 1987 are in the custody of the [Defense Visual Information Center](#), 1363 Z Street Center, March Air Force Base, CA 92518-2727.

**Q: Where can I find information about Army casualties?**

**A:** There are several links on the Center of Military History website at: <http://www.history.army.mil/html/faq/campcasu.html> that deal with Army casualties: Casualties in Operation URGENT FURY (Grenada 1983) and Operation JUST CAUSE (Panama 1989-1990)  
General Casualty Statistics  
Number of Army Personnel who Served During Each Major War, and the Number of Casualties Incurred  
Number of U.S. Army Casualties Incurred in Recent Operations  
World War II, Korea and Vietnam Casualties Listed by State

**Q: Where can I obtain court martial records?**

**A:** For information contact:  
Office of the Clerk of Court  
U.S. Army Judiciary  
ATTN: JALS-CCO  
901 North Stuart Street  
Suite 1200  
Arlington, VA 22203-1837  
Telephone: (703) 588-7920; FAX: (703) 696-8777

**Q: Who are the four and five-star generals and admirals?**

**A:** Go to: [Resource Guides/Finding Aids](#). Look under "Reference Bibliographies", click on "Subject Bibliographies", and select "Generals".

**Q: Medal of Honor citations, statistics, information:**

**A:** Go to the Center of Military History website at: <http://www.history.army.mil/moh.html>

**Q. Where can I find information about the U.S. Army?**

**A:** The [U. S. Army Homepage](#)

**Q: Where can I get information about the other armed services?**

**A:** USAMHI has little information on other services. Their own historical agencies are far better equipped to provide substantive information on them. These agencies can be contacted as follows:

**U.S. Navy:**

**Naval Historical Center**  
Building 57  
Washington Navy Yard  
Washington, DC 20374

<http://www.history.navy.mil/>

Specific ships (202) 433-3643

Information (202) 433-3634

**U.S. Air Force:**

**Air Force History Office**

AFHSO/HOS

200 McChord Street, Box 94

Bolling Air Force Base

Washington, DC 20332-1111

<http://www.airforcehistory.hq.af.mil/>

(202) 404-2161

**U.S. Air Force Historical Research Agency**

600 Chennault Circle

Maxwell AFB, AL 36112-6424

<http://www.au.af.mil/au/afhra/>

(334) 953-5834

**U.S. Air Force Museum**

1100 Spaatz Street

Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, OH 45433-7102

<http://www.nationalmuseum.af.mil/>

(937) 255-3286

**U.S. Marine Corps:**

Marine Corps History Division

3079 Moreell Avenue

Quantico, Virginia 22134

(703) 432-4877

<http://www.tecom.usmc.mil/HD>

**U.S. Coast Guard:**

U.S. Coast Guard Historian's Office

<http://www.uscg.mil/history/>

**Q: What are the official birthdays of the armed services?**

**A:** U.S. Army - 14 June 1775

U.S. Navy- 13 Oct 1775

U.S. Marines- 10 Nov 1775

U.S. Coast Guard- 28 Jan 1915 (Its predecessor the U.S. Revenue Cutter Service was established on 14 Aug 1790.)

U.S. Air Force- 18 Sept 1947