

INSTRUCTIONS FOR VA FORM 26-1880

PRIVACY ACT INFORMATION: VA will not disclose information collected on this form to any source other than what has been authorized under the Privacy Act of 1974 or Title 38, Code of Federal Regulations 1.576 for regular uses (for example: authorized release of information to Congress when requested for statistical purposes) identified in the VA system of records, 55VA26, Loan Guaranty Home, Condominium and Manufactured Home Loan Applicant Records, Specially Adapted Housing Applicant Records, and Vendee Loan Applicant Records - VA, published in the Federal Register. Your obligation to respond is required in order to determine the veteran's qualifications for a loan.

RESPONDENT BURDEN: This information is needed to help determine a veteran's qualifications for a VA guaranteed home loan. Title 38, U.S.C., section 3702, authorizes collection of this information. We estimate that you will need an average of 15 minutes to review the instructions, find the information, and complete this form. VA cannot conduct or sponsor a collection of information unless a valid OMB control number is displayed. You are not required to respond to a collection of information if this number is not displayed. Valid OMB control numbers can be located on the OMB Internet Page at www.whitehouse.gov/omb/library/OMBINV.VA.EPA.html#VA. If desired, you can call 1-800-827-1000 and give your comments or ask for mailing information on where to send your comments.

A. Mail this completed form, along with proof of service, to the VA Eligibility Center at P.O. Box 20729, Winston-Salem, NC 27120.

B. Military Service Requirements for VA Loan Eligibility: (NOTE: Cases involving other than honorable discharges will usually require further development by VA. This is necessary to determine if the service was under other than dishonorable conditions.)

1. Wartime Service. If you served anytime during World War II (September 16, 1940 to July 25, 1947), Korean Conflict (June 27, 1950 to January 31, 1955), or Vietnam Era (August 5, 1964 to May 7, 1975) you must have served at least 90 days on active duty and have been discharged or released under other than dishonorable conditions. If you served less than 90 days, you may be eligible if discharged because of service-connected disability.

2. Peacetime Service. If your service fell entirely within one of the following periods: July 26, 1947 to June 26, 1950, or February 1, 1955 to August 4, 1964, you must have served at least 181 days of continuous active duty and have been discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable. If you entered service after May 7, 1975 but prior to September 8, 1980 (enlisted) or October 17, 1981 (officer) and completed your service before August 2, 1990, 181 days service is also required. If you served less than 181 days, you may be eligible if discharged for a service-connected disability.

3. Service after September 7, 1980 (enlisted) or October 16, 1981 (officer) and prior to August 2, 1990. If you were separated from service which began after these dates, you must have: (a) Completed 24 months of continuous active duty for the full period (at least 181 days) for which you were called or ordered to active duty, and been discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable; or (b) Completed at least 181 days of active duty and been discharged under the specific authority of 10 U.S.C. 1173 (hardship discharge) or 10 U.S.C. 1171 (early out discharge), or have been determined to have a compensable service-connected disability; or (c) Been discharged with less than 181 days of service for a service-connected disability. Individuals may also be eligible if they were released from active duty due to an involuntary reduction in force, certain medical conditions, or, in some instances for the convenience of the Government.

4. Gulf War. If you served on active duty during the Gulf War (August 2, 1990 to a date yet to be determined), you must have: (a) Completed 24 months of continuous active duty or the full period (at least 90 days) for which you were called or ordered to active duty, and been discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable; or (b) Completed at least 90 days of active duty and been discharged under the specific authority of 10 U.S.C. 1173 (hardship discharge), or 10 U.S.C. 1171 (early out discharge), or have been determined to have a compensable service-connected disability; or (c) Been discharged with less than 90 days of service for a service-connected disability. Individuals may also be eligible if they were released from active duty due to an involuntary reduction in force, certain medical conditions, or, in some instances, for the convenience of the Government.

5. Active Duty Service Personnel. If you are now on active duty, you are eligible after having served on continuous active duty for at least 181 days (90 days during the Persian Gulf War) unless discharged or separated from a previous qualifying period of active duty service.

6. Selected Reserve Requirements for VA Loan Eligibility. If you are not otherwise eligible and you have completed a total of 6 years in the Selected Reserves or National Guard (member of an active unit, attended required weekend drills and 2-week active duty training) and (a) Were discharged with an honorable discharge; or (b) Were placed on the retired list or (c) Were transferred to the Standby Reserve or an element of the Ready Reserve other than the Selected Reserve after service characterized as honorable service; or (d) Continue to serve in the Selected Reserve. Individuals who completed less than 6 years may be eligible if discharged for a service-connected disability.

C. Unmarried surviving spouses of eligible veterans seeking determination of basic eligibility for VA Loan Guaranty benefits are NOT required to complete this form, but are required to complete VA Form 26-1817, Request for Determination of Loan Guaranty Eligibility-Unmarried Surviving Spouse.

D. Proof of Military Service

1. "Regular" Veterans. Attach to this request your most recent discharge or separation papers from active military duty since September 16, 1940, which show active duty dates and type of discharge. If you were separated after January 1, 1950, DD Form 214 must be submitted. If you were separated after October 1, 1979, and you received DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge From Active Duty, 1 July edition, VA must be furnished Copy 4 of the form. You may submit either original papers or legible copies. In addition, if you are now on active duty submit a statement of service signed by, or by direction of, the adjutant, personnel officer, or commander of your unit or higher headquarters showing date of entry on your current active duty period and the duration of any time lost. Any Veterans Services Representative in the nearest Department of Veterans Affairs office or center will assist you in securing necessary proof of military service.

2. Selected Reserves/National Guard. If you are a discharged member of the Army or Air Force National Guard you may submit a NGB Form 22, Report of Separation and Record of Service, or NGB Form 23, Retirement Points Accounting, or its equivalent (this is similar to a retirement points summary). If you are a discharged member of the Selected Reserve you may submit a copy of your latest annual point statement and evidence of honorable service. You may submit either your original papers or legible copies. Since there is no single form used by the Reserves or National Guard similar to the DD Form 214, it is your responsibility to furnish adequate documentation of at least 6 years of honorable service. In addition, if you are currently serving in the Selected Reserve you must submit a statement of service signed by, or by the direction of, the adjutant, personnel officer or commander of your unit or higher headquarters showing the length of time that you have been a member of the unit.