

FACTS ABOUT THE FIRE AT THE NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER'S MILITARY PERSONNEL RECORDS FACILITY

I. RECORD BLOCKS AFFECTED BY THE FIRE. The July 12, 1973, fire at NPRC destroyed about 80% of the records for Army personnel discharged between November 1, 1912, and January 1, 1960, and about 75% of the records for Air Force personnel with surnames from Hubbard thru "Z" discharged between September 25, 1947, and January 1, 1964.

II. A LISTING OF THE RECORDS LOST IN THE FIRE DOES NOT EXIST. When a record is not in NPRC's files at the present time, and it would have been in the area that suffered the most damage in the fire on July 12, 1973, Center employees often cannot determine for certain if it was burned because:

1) There were no indices to the blocks of records involved. The records were merely filed in alphabetical order within each major block:

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| World War I | November 1, 1912-September 7, 1939 |
| World War II | September 8, 1939-December 31, 1946 |
| Post World War II | (Army) January 1, 1947-December 31, 1959 (Air Force) September 25, 1947-December 31, 1963 |

2) Millions of the records (especially medical records) had been withdrawn from all three blocks and lent to the Veterans Administration prior to the fire.

III. A VETERAN MAY SUBMIT PHOTOCOPIES OF DOCUMENTS IN HIS/HER POSSESSION TO THIS CENTER. If a veteran who inquiries about his/her record is advised that it was probably lost in the fire, he/she may send to this Center photocopies of any documents he/she has in his/ her possession, particularly separation documents. These will be authenticated by our staff, added to our computerized index and filed for permanent retention.

IV. ALTERNATE SOURCES OF MILITARY SERVICE DATA. In the event a veteran has no records in his/her possession, the essential military service data is available from a number of alternate sources. The Veterans Administration, for example, maintains records on veterans whose military records were affected by the fire, if the veteran or his/her family filed a claim prior to July 1973. Other sources of service information include various kinds of "organizational" records such as morning reports, payrolls, and military orders at this Center. There is also a great deal of information available in records of the State Adjutants General, and other state "veterans service" offices. By using the alternate sources of information which are available at this Center, NPRC employees can often reconstruct the veteran's beginning and ending dates of active service, the character of the service, rank while in service, times lost while on active duty, and periods of hospitalization. Usually this Center is able to issue NA Form 13038, *Certification of Military Service*—which is considered to be the equivalent of a DD Form 214, *Report of Separation from Active Duty*—for the purpose of establishing eligibility for veteran's benefits.

V. DATA NECESSARY TO START THE RECONSTRUCTION PROCESS. Of course, the key to reconstructing military data is to get enough specific information from the veteran to allow our Center personnel to search the available alternate sources. The information normally required is:

- 1) Full name used during Service
- 2) Branch of service
- 3) Approximate dates of service
- 4) Service number
- 5) Place of discharge
- 6) Last unit of assignment
- 7) Place of entry into service

**NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER (MPR)
MILITARY PERSONNEL RECORDS HOLDINGS
AS OF MARCH 28,2006**

| RECORD BLOCK | RECORD NUMBER | DATE | CUBIC FEET | NUMBER OF JACKETS |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|---------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| <u>ALPHA OR NUMERIC FILES</u> | | | | |
| NAVY WWI (Alpha) | 24 | 1885 - 09/08/39 | 6 14,719 | 1,016,825 |
| NAVY WWII (Alpha) | 24 | 09/09/39 - 08/31/47 | 84,320 | 3,411,056 |
| NAVY PWWII (Alpha) | 24 | 09/01/47 - 12/31/63 | 52,584 | 2,689,369 |
| NAVY OFFICERS (Alpha & Numeric) | 24 | 1902 - 12/29/67 | 21,005 | 572,384 |
| NAVY MEDICAL (Alpha) | 52 | 1911 - 12/31/63 | 63,432 | 7,704,791 |
| MARINE CORPS OFFICER | 127 | 1905 - 12/31/63 | 3,208 | 123,632 |
| MARINE CORPS ENLISTED | 127 | 1906 - 12/31/63 | 6 38,912 | 1,463,091 |
| | | | 278,180 | 16,981,148 |
| <u>COMPUTER INDEXED FILES</u> | | | | |
| <u>"B" REGISTRY FILES</u> | | | | |
| COAST GUARD | 26 | 1906 - 12/31/63 | 1,824 | 52,195 |
| NAVY MEDICAL | 52 | 1911 - 12/31/63 | 6,875 | 513,790 |
| ARMY | 319 | 11/01/12 - 12/31/59 | 104,739 | 5,034,454 |
| AIR FORCE | 342 | 09/25/47 - 12/31/63 | 33,134 | 893,183 |
| | | | 146,572 | 6,493,622 |
| <u>"R" REGISTRY FILES</u> | | | | |
| ARMY | 319 | 11/01/12 - 12/31/59 | 28,756 | 4,537,867 |
| AIR FORCE | 342 | 09/25/47 - 12/31/63 | 1,511 | 231,007 |
| NGB | 168 | 11/01/12 - 12/31/59 | 9 | 574 |
| | | | 30,276 | 4,769,448 |
| <u>"O" REGISTRY FILES</u> | | | | |
| COAST GUARD | 26 | 1906 - 12/31/63 | 13,397 | 428,609 |
| <u>"N" REGISTRY FILES</u> | | | | |
| NAVY PERSONNEL | 24 | 1902 -09/30/05 | 1 148,120 | 5,188,479 |
| COAST GUARD | 26 | 1898 - 09/30/05 | 24,855 | 294,710 |
| NAVY MEDICAL | 52 | 01/01/64 - 09/30/05 | 58,973 | 3,183,025 |
| MARINE CORPS | 127 | 01/01/64 -09/30/05 | 2 55,918 | 2,401,017 |
| | | | 287,866 | 11,067,231 |
| <u>"F" REGISTRY FILES</u> | | | | |
| AIR FORCE | 342 | 09/25/47 - 09/30/05 | 3 220,561 | 4,848,520 |
| <u>"A" REGISTRY FILES</u> | | | | |
| ARMY | 319 | 01/01/60 - 09/30/05 | 4 520,562 | 12,115,997 |
| NGB | 168 | 01/01/60 - 09/30/05 | 12 | 641 |
| | | | 520,574 | 12,116,638 |
| <u>REGISTRY TOTAL</u> | | | 1,219,246 | 39,724,068 |
| <u>GRAND TOTAL</u> | | | 5 1,497,426 | 56,705,216 |

(FOOTNOTES PAGE 2)