

## WHY RECORD DD-214's?

- DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty is issued to every veteran upon separation of service.
  - Summarizes career, and includes (list is not all inclusive):
    - Military pay grade (rank)
    - Last military unit served in
    - Primary Specialty or Military Operational Specialty (career field)
    - Total time served to include Foreign Service
    - Decorations, medals, badges, citations and campaign ribbons earned
    - Military education and schools attended
    - Type of separation
    - Narrative reason for separation/discharge and reenlistment eligibility
  - It's the **most important** document a veteran receives.
  - Also required by Funeral Directors in order to immediately prove eligibility for interment in a VA Cemetery and/or obtain a grave marker and/or provide military honors to a deceased veteran.
- Commonly used by various government agencies, to include Dept. of Veteran's Affairs to secure government benefits.
  - Can also be requested by employers should a veteran indicate, military service.
- Veterans are advised during pre-separation briefings that they should record Copy 4 (Members Copy) at their Register of Deeds office.
- Recording DD-214 is another way of safeguarding the military service record and allows veterans an avenue to quickly get the document if the need arises.
  - If misfiled or lost by veteran, it helps the veteran avoid the inconvenience of having to reach out to the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, MO, which can take a lengthy amount of time.
- Certified copies can be printed for veterans (who have recorded with the Register of Deeds) by coming to our office at **NO** cost to the veteran.