

# VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK



## Did You Know – Role of Investigating Committee Training – November 22, 2021

### Questions and Answers

1. Once the Investigating Committee completes their review of a new member application, to whom do they give the veteran's DD214?

Ans. The DD214 must be returned to the Veteran or to the family member who submitted the application. The Auxiliary should never keep a DD214 as it is considered the personal property of the veteran.

2. If an applicant needs a copy of a DD214, where can they inquire for assistance?

Ans. If you need assistance to obtain the DD214, The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) has provided the following websites for Veterans to gain access online.

*<http://vetrecs.archives.gov/> or <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/>*

3. Are there other resources that can provide assistance with a DD214?

Ans. The County Veterans Office may be located in your county office building. You may need to make an appointment. Call ahead so you won't be disappointed.

Your local funeral director. If a military funeral was performed or a Veteran's headstone was ordered, the funeral director had to verify military service information.

If in doubt, check with the VFW Post Leadership team as the Veteran may have been a VFW member and the Post may have the information on file.

4. If a Veteran's widow/widower wants to join an Auxiliary, what do they need to do?

Ans. Reference Podium Edition Bylaws and Ritual Sec. 102—Application—New Member  
Second bullet - First sub-bullet: Applications must be accompanied by  
\* Proof of VFW membership of person in whose right the application is made.

If the widow./widower can provide the veteran's VFW membership card, the applicant should be able to join. The Post Commander or Quartermaster may be able to confirm the eligibility information. Since the veteran is deceased, the application should be listed as **“non-affiliated”**.

5. What is the difference between “Post Affiliated” and “Non-Affiliated” on the application form?

Ans. **“Post Affiliated”** means the **veteran**, under whom the applicant wants to join under, **is a current VFW Post member** affiliated with the Auxiliary to which the applicant is applying.

**“Non-Affiliated”** means that the **veteran**, under whom the applicant wants to join under, **is not a VFW Post member** affiliated with the Auxiliary to which the applicant is applying. This includes Post members who may be deceased.

6. What family members are eligible to join the VFW Auxiliary based on the Eligibility Wheel?

Ans. Eligibility is governed by the IRS. The eligible veteran and prospective VFW Auxiliary member must have a familial relationship within two generations. Step, half and adopted family members meet the standard set forth by the IRS.

**Refer to Bylaws Sec. 101—Eligibility**

**Husbands/Wives, Father/Mothers, Sons/Daughters, Brothers/Sisters,  
Widowers/Widows, Grandfathers/Grandmothers, Granddons/Granddaughters,**

Aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews of the eligible veteran do not meet the “two generations” standard and are not permitted to join the VFW Auxiliary. In addition, **Great-Grandchildren do not meet** the “two generations” standard and are not eligible to join.

Q1. What is a DD214?

Ans. 1. A DD214 is a complete and thorough document that verifies a service member’s proof of Military Service. The Dept of Defense typically issues a DD214 at the final out-processing appointment prior to retirement or separation.

A DD214 is a document of the United States Department of Defense issued upon discharge of active service.

As long as one was deployed for at least 180 days, and he/she didn’t get a dishonorable discharge or bad conduct then they are considered a Veteran.

Q2. What qualifies a service member to receive a DD214?

Ans. 2. The DD214 is issued prior to separation from military service. It captures certain qualifying periods of continuous active-duty service accomplished from start to finish of active-duty through release date.

Q3. What can a DD214 be used for?

Ans. 3. The DD214 identifies then Veterans condition at time of discharge, honorable, general, other than honorable, dishonorable, or bad conduct.

Q4. Does having a DD214 make you a Veteran?

Ans. 4. The DD214 is proof of discharge after being deployed under federal orders. If your discharge was due to reasons other than dishonorable then you are considered a Veteran. The government issued DD214 to all military services since January 1, 1950. Similar forms were used prior to January 1, 1950.

Q5. How can someone obtain a copy of a DD214 for a relative to join the VFW or Auxiliary?

Ans. 5. If you are the next of kin of a deceased veteran, you must show proof of death of the Veteran such as a copy of death certificate, letter from funeral home, or published obituary. DD214’s can be requested online or via USPS mail. It takes 3-4 weeks to process your request.

Q6. So why the little bit of history on a DD214? Refer to Article I Membership in the Bylaws.

Ans. 6. The DD214 is used to determine if someone is eligible to join our organization. The Veteran must have served in a foreign war, insurrection, or expedition, which is recognized by the award of a campaign or service medal of the United States.

Those who served in Korea and those who earned Hostile Fire or Imminent Danger Pay is outlined in the bylaws and ritual.

Q7. You have a potential new member application ready to review. What is next?

Ans. 7. On the top of the DD214 you will find on the Veteran's name, service branch, SSN, grade rank, pay grade, date of birth and termination date.

Next section has last duty station and station separation.

The next section is the most important section. You will see foreign service years months and days. This is also the area where you will find decorations, medals, badges, citations, campaign ribbons awarded or authorized. This will help determine whether the Veteran served in armed combat. The remarks section also contains valuable information. It shows geographic region where served or reference to service. Using this section of the DD214 you will now compare that information and match the branch of service, qualifying dates, campaign medals to determine eligibility for membership.

The investigating committee reviews the information. The committee must review the DD214 to determine if the information on the application match. It is important that the Veteran has FOREIGN SERVICE DATES as the VFW is Veterans of Foreign Wars. Read that section carefully. The bylaws and ritual are going to be your best friend to verify this.