

Res. 140/87

REQUEST FOR RECORDS DISPOSAL AUTHORITY
(See Instructions on reverse)

LEAVE BLANK

JOB NO

NCI-AU-82-6

DATE RECEIVED

November 25, 1981

NOTIFICATION TO AGENCY

In accordance with the provisions of 44 U.S.C. 3303a the disposal request, including amendments, is approved except for items that may be stamped "disposal not approved" or "withdrawn" in column 10

Withdrawn
2/1/84
jm
Date *2/1/84* Archivist of the United States

TO GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION,
NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS SERVICE, WASHINGTON, DC 20408

1 FROM (AGENCY OR ESTABLISHMENT)
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

2 MAJOR SUBDIVISION
The Adjutant General's Office

3 MINOR SUBDIVISION
Records Management Division

4 NAME OF PERSON WITH WHOM TO CONFER

John G. Vos

5 TEL EXT

325-6044

6 CERTIFICATE OF AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE

I hereby certify that I am authorized to act for this agency in matters pertaining to the disposal of the agency's records, that the records proposed for disposal in this Request of 3 page(s) are not now needed for the business of this agency or will not be needed after the retention periods specified.

A Request for immediate disposal

B Request for disposal after a specified period of time or request for permanent retention

C DATE: 23 Oct 81
D SIGNATURE OF AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE: *Guy B. Oldaker*
E TITLE: Chief, Records Management Division

7 ITEM NO	8 DESCRIPTION OF ITEM (With Inclusive Dates or Retention Periods)	9 SAMPLE OR JOB NO	10 ACTION TAKEN
1.	<p>OFFICIAL MILITARY PERSONNEL FOLDER FILES (FN 708-02, AR 340-18-7). Basic documents relating to the career of each military member of the Army. During service; this file provides basic documentation for Headquarters, Department of the Army. After completion of service it contains permanent, historical documentation, including records of long-term value from the military personnel records jacket. Documents placed in this file are limited to those authorized for filing therein by Department of the Army directives. The individual's efficiency file folder is included.</p> <p><u>DISPOSITION:</u> Permanent.</p> <p>a. Retire to US Army Reserve Component Personnel and Administration Center (RCPAC) upon separation of the individual.</p> <p>b. Transfer to National Personnel Records Center (NPRC/MPR) after delayed documentation has been incorporated.</p> <p>c. Offer to National Archives 75 years after separation of the individual.</p>		

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7 ITEM NO	8 DESCRIPTION OF ITEM (With Inclusive Dates or Retention Periods)	9 SAMPLE OR JOB NO	10 ACTION TAKEN
	<p><u>BACKGROUND:</u></p> <p>a. This request replaces the SF 115 and accompanying letter dated 6 July 1981 on the same record series, which were withdrawn by telephone conversation on 20 October 1981 between Mr. Oldaker of Army and Mr. Scaboo of NARS.</p> <p>b. Army has reconsidered its position on the ultimate value of official military personnel folders of its members. We believe that the record of a soldier's service to the Nation is worth far more than the cost of its permanent retention in the National Archives. These records are a part of the Army's heritage and history, and that of the United States of America, and anything less than permanent retention is a disservice to the individual, to his or her descendants, and to the Army.</p> <p>c. A figure that has been advanced several times by NARS and others is that destruction of personnel records at 75 years vis-a-vis permanent, archival retention would, eventually, save NARS and the several Services \$1,000,000 per year. Considering that NARS (*) holds about 70,000,000 military records jackets, this would mean an annual savings of less than 1½¢ per record per year. We are convinced that, having spent several hundred thousand dollars of the taxpayer's money to train, maintain, pay, relocate, and administer a soldier during an active career, it is economic folly to destroy the record of that service in order to realize savings of this magnitude (1½¢ per record per year).</p> <p>d. Apart from the historical and archival aspects of these records, there are other, monetary reasons why they should not be scheduled for destruction <u>at any date</u>, be it finite or open-ended. These are:</p> <p>(1) <u>Genealogical</u>: Americans evince great interest in their genealogy. Given that a substantial percentage of the citizenry serves in an Army component</p> <p>(*) <u>Statistical summary, NPRC/MPR, title: Holdings, Military Jackets as of September 26, 1980.</u></p>		

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	<p>at one time or another, these records should be kept available for genealogical research. Neither the Army nor NARS should presume the ability to forecast a point in time when genealogical interest in these records will cease to exist.</p> <p>(2) <u>Rights and interests of the Army, the individual, and the taxpayer:</u> In protecting the OMPF as a permanent record, we are determined to profit by past errors and prevent their recurrence. In the mid-1960's, a decision was made to destroy record sets of Army orders after only five years. This action has cost millions of dollars, as we have had to reconstruct--from other sources--the participation of tens of thousands of soldiers in atmospheric nuclear tests, and exposure to Agent ORANGE in Vietnam. We may not know the ultimate effects of these exposures for several generations.</p> <p>e. Based on all of the above, the Army views its official military personnel folders as having permanent value, and thus recommends their permanent retention per the schedule proposed above. Further, Army urges formal appraisal and validation of these records' permanency by The Archivist of the United States at the earliest possible date.</p>		