

# Title Chat

Volume 27, February 2004



## A Continuation of February 2002's Title Chat Entitled “Persons in the Military”

With the military call up since September 11 continuing, I would like to update our Chat of February 2002. There we discussed the provisions of the Soldiers’ and Sailors’ Relief Act of 1940 (“SSCRA”). You may remember SSCRA stays any litigation against persons while on military duty during the term of their duty plus three months. SSCRA also limits the amount of interest a person on active duty would be obligated to pay during that time to 6%.

How do we know whether a person is on duty in the military? It has recently come to our attention that one can apply for access to a web site maintained by the Department of Defense for this purpose. We have shared this information with management of North American Title Company in Florida, Illinois, Maryland and Texas. If you want to access this site and you work for North American Title Company in one of these states, check with management. If you are located elsewhere we attach a copy of a recent letter from the Department of Defense and an attachment to it. If you cannot access the attachments and want a copy, call 800-374-8475 and ask for either Floyd Krause or Sunny Akins.

*Title Chat is published monthly by North American Title Insurance Corporation, a member of the North American Title Group of companies for distribution to North American Title Group’s employees and customers. Topics will include closing issues, title and title insurance issues and title insurance business issues; and are intended to make the reader aware of the issues discussed. It should not be construed as giving a legal opinion on the issues being discussed; but rather as addressing situations encountered in its business and sometimes offering solutions based upon applicable case or statutory law that the reader may be unaware of. North American Title Insurance Corporation assumes no liability for any incorrect statements made herein.*

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NOTIFICATION OF THE NEW SOLDIERS AND SAILORS RELIEF ACT WEB SITE

As a user of the Defense Manpower Data Center's (DMDC) Military Verification service, you may be interested to know that over the past year DMDC recently completed 300,000 military status checks in response to requests from law firms and other offices around the country. The current volume of requests has reached over 10,000 per week and continues to increase rapidly.

To alleviate the highly labor-intensive effort required to deal with this workload, DMDC has developed a Web site that will enable our customers to perform the checks themselves. An additional benefit is that the site will be available to you on a 24-hour basis. When you perform a check at this site, you will obtain written documentation containing the Department of Defense seal and my signature as the Director of the DMDC.

In order to provide your company access to the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act (SSCRA) Web site, you need to identify all employees (use the following form) who will be doing these checks and complete the form by typing all the required information for each person on the form. **We also need a requesting letter accompanying the form on your Company Letterhead that also states your company and these individuals with accounts will not use this information for any other reason than SSCRA searches.**

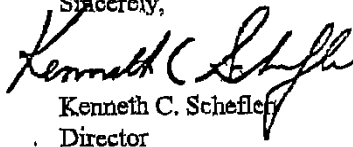
The Form asks for:

- Company name and address
- FAX and telephone number
- Full name with middle initial of employees doing checks
- E-mail of employees doing checks
- Phone numbers of employees doing checks
- Mother's maiden name of employees doing check

This information above can be faxed to 703-696-4156 or mailed to: DMDC, Military Verification, 1600 Wilson Blvd., Suite 400, Arlington, VA 22209. Details on how to use the site and other pertinent information will be provided via e-mail and on the introductory screen of the site.

If you find the Web site does not satisfy your needs, please contact Military Verification, 703-696-5790, and we will explore other options with you. We are also available to address other comments and questions you may have.

Sincerely,

  
Kenneth C. Scheffler  
Director

