

If you are found eligible for naturalization, USCIS will inform you of the date you can take the Oath of Allegiance and become a U.S. citizen.

Forms You Will Need to Complete and Submit:

- N-400, Application for Naturalization
- N-426, Request for Certification of Military or Naval Service (The military must certify this form before you send it to USCIS. If you are separated from the military, you may submit an uncertified Form N-426 with your DD Form 214 or NGB Form 22.)

Naturalization at Basic Training

New enlistees may submit an Application for Naturalization (Form N-400), submit biometrics, and be interviewed and naturalized during basic training. Please talk to your basic training instructor/unit for specific instructions.

Overseas Processing

Active duty service members serving overseas on orders may be interviewed and naturalized abroad at certain U.S. Embassies, Consulates, and military installations. You may request overseas processing at any time in the naturalization process. Please see www.uscis.gov/military for specific instructions.

Spouses of Members of the U.S. Armed Forces

Expedited Naturalization

If you are married to a service member who is a U.S. citizen and your citizen spouse is or will be deployed abroad for one year or more, you may be eligible for expedited naturalization in the United States. For more information, please refer to www.uscis.gov/military.

Naturalization Abroad

Certain spouses or children of service members residing abroad with that service member as authorized by official orders may be eligible to naturalize abroad.

Please visit www.uscis.gov/military and check the brochure “Requirements for Naturalization Abroad by Spouses of Members of the U.S. Armed Forces” for more information.

Posthumous Benefits

Section 329A of the INA allows for the granting of posthumous citizenship to members of the U.S. Armed Forces who died while serving in an active-duty status. In addition, surviving family members seeking immigration benefits are given special consideration. Please see the USCIS pamphlet, “Survivor Benefits for Non-Citizen Relatives of Military Personnel” (M-601), for more information.



USCIS Resources

For more information, please visit www.uscis.gov/military. You can download forms by clicking on “Forms.”

USCIS Military Help Line

You or your family may also contact the toll-free USCIS Military Help Line, (877) CIS-4MIL ((877) 247-4645) to request forms or for more information. USCIS customer service specialists are available to answer calls Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. (CST), except federal holidays. You or your family may also send an email to: militaryinfo@uscis.dhs.gov. See the USCIS pamphlet, “USCIS Military Help Line” (M-671), for more information.

USCIS Contact Information:

Please visit www.uscis.gov/about-us/find-uscis-office to find your local USCIS office.



Naturalization Information for Military Personnel



Eligibility and the Process

If you are a member or veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces and are interested in becoming a U.S. citizen, you may be eligible to apply for naturalization under special provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA). Generally, service in the U.S. Armed Forces means service in one of the following branches:



- Army
- Navy
- Marine Corps
- Air Force
- Coast Guard
- National Guard

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has a streamlined process specifically for military personnel who file under the military naturalization provisions.

This brochure provides you with some basic information about the laws that govern naturalization for military personnel and the process that you should follow to begin your journey to citizenship.

Do You Qualify?

There are general requirements and qualifications that you must meet in order to become a U.S. citizen. These requirements include:

- Demonstrating that you have good moral character
- Demonstrating knowledge of the English language
- Demonstrating knowledge of U.S. government and history (“civics”)
- Demonstrating attachment to the principles of the U.S. Constitution
- Taking the *Oath of Allegiance*

As a member of the military, there are certain naturalization requirements that may not apply to you, including the required periods of residence and physical presence in the United States. These exceptions are outlined in sections 328 and 329 of the INA.

If you meet all of the requirements in either section 328 or 329, you may apply for naturalization under either section. You will not have to pay any fees for your naturalization application.

Section 328 of the INA

This section applies to all members currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces or those who have recently separated from service. You may qualify if:

- ✓ You have served honorably, in active duty or reserve service, for a year or more.
- ✓ You are a lawful permanent resident.
- ✓ You apply while in the service or within six months after being separated.

Section 329 of the INA (Service During Hostilities)

This section applies to currently serving members or veterans who served in an active-duty status or in the Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve during designated periods of conflict. The designated periods of conflict are:

- April 6, 1917 – November 11, 1918
- September 1, 1939 – December 31, 1946
- June 25, 1950 – July 1, 1955
- February 28, 1961 – October 15, 1978
- August 2, 1990 – April 11, 1991
- September 11, 2001 – present

The current period of designation remains in effect until the president issues an executive order ending the designation.

You May Qualify If:

- ✓ You served honorably in the U.S. Armed Forces during an authorized period of conflict.
- ✓ After enlistment, you were lawfully admitted as a permanent resident of the United States, OR at the time of enlistment, reenlistment, or induction, you were physically present in the United States or a qualifying area.

Could You Already Be a Citizen?

If either of your parents were citizens by birth or naturalization before you turned 18 years old, you may already be a citizen. For more information, please refer to the Instructions for Form N-600, Application for Certificate of Citizenship, on www.uscis.gov/n-600.

If You Qualify...

Many military installations have a designated USCIS liaison to help you with the application process and certify your Request for Certification of Military or Naval Service (Form N-426). Ask your chain of command or legal services office for the contact information for this person.

You or your liaison will mail your completed application and all required materials to:

USCIS
P.O. Box 4446
Chicago, IL 60680-4446

USCIS will review your application and conduct required security checks. These checks require that USCIS obtain your fingerprints, which can be done in one of the following ways:

- If you were fingerprinted for a previous immigration application, USCIS will use these fingerprints, if available
- You can visit a USCIS Application Support Center. You do not need an appointment, but you must present a current, valid military identification card. This is the fastest way to comply with the fingerprint requirement if you are within the U.S. To locate a USCIS Application Support Center, visit: www.uscis.gov/about-us/find-uscis-office
- USCIS will request and use your enlistment fingerprints, if available, if you are overseas or are unable to report for fingerprinting
- USCIS travels to military installations in the U.S. to capture fingerprints using a mobile fingerprint unit. Ask your liaison if USCIS has a scheduled trip to your installation or nearby
- If stationed abroad, you may submit 2 properly completed FD-258 fingerprint cards taken by the Military Police, Department of Homeland Security officials or U.S. Embassy or Consulate officials

After reviewing your application, USCIS will send it to a USCIS office for an interview. You can request an interview at a specific office in a cover letter attached to your application. The field office will schedule you for an interview to review your eligibility for naturalization and test your knowledge of English and civics.