



7th Army Training Command Legal Assistance Information

Citizenship and Naturalization

Please note that this Information Paper only provides basic information and is not intended to serve as a substitute for personal consultations with a Legal Assistance Attorney.

1. Citizenship

If you meet certain requirements, you may become a U.S. citizen either at birth or afterwards.

To become a citizen at birth, you must:

- Have been born in the United States or certain territories or outlying possessions of the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction of the United States; or
- Have a parent or parents who were citizens for a certain minimum period of time at the time of your birth (if you were born abroad) and meet other requirements

To become a citizen after birth, you must:

- Apply for “derived” or “acquired” citizen through parents”; or
- Apply for naturalization.

All Application processing for Naturalization is completed online at: <https://www.uscis.gov>. Please refer to the website for the most up-to-date information and for the status of your case.

2. Naturalization through Military Service

If you are serving or have served in 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).

a. Eligibility

If you meet all of the requirements of either Section 328 or 329 of INA, you may apply for naturalization by filing Form N-400 under the section that applies to you. You must submit the N-426, Request for Certification of Military or Naval Service, approved by an O-6 in chain of command. You will not have to pay any fees for applying for naturalization under INA 328 or 329. As a member or veteran of the U.S. military, certain other naturalization requirements may not apply to you; for example, you may not have to reside in or be physically present in the U.S. for any length of time before you apply for naturalization. Service members who have served honorably during periods of hostility are eligible for naturalization after at least one day of active duty. The requirements for naturalization are explained in greater detail below.

b. One year of Military Service during Peacetime

While some general naturalization requirements apply under INA 328, other requirements may not apply or are reduced. To establish eligibility under INA 328, you must:

- Have served honorably, during a period of peacetime, in the U.S. armed forces for a period or periods totaling one year;
- Have submitted a completed Form N-426, Request for Certification of Military or Naval Service (PDF, 313 KB), at the time of filing the N-400 to demonstrate honorable service;
- Be a lawful permanent resident at the time of the examination on your application for naturalization;
- Meet certain residence and physical presence requirements;
- Demonstrate the ability to read, write and speak English;
- Demonstrate knowledge of U.S. history and government;
- Demonstrate good moral character for at least five years prior to filing the N-400 until the time of naturalization; and
- Demonstrate an attachment to the principles of the U.S. Constitution.

If you have already separated from the U.S. armed forces, you may submit an uncertified Form N-426 with a photocopy of your DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, or NGB Form 22, National Guard Report of Separation and Record of Service, for the applicable periods of service listed in Form N-426. 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, which include obtaining your fingerprints. This 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 an Application Support Center, which is the fastest way to record your fingerprints if you are stationed in the U.S. You do not need an appointment, but you must show an unexpired military identification card.
- If stationed abroad, you may submit 2 properly completed FD-258 fingerprint cards taken by the military police or officials with the Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Embassy, or U.S. Consulate.
- If you have questions regarding your biometrics, you can contact the Military Help Line at 877-CIS-4MIL (877-247-4645) or militaryinfo@uscis.dhs.gov.

USCIS will review your application and send it to a USCIS field office to schedule you for an interview. You can request an interview at a specific office in a cover letter attached to your application or leave the choice of location to us. You may request overseas processing by attaching a cover letter to your application or contacting the Military Help Line at 877-CIS-4MIL (877-247-4645) or militaryinfo@uscis.dhs.gov.

The field office will schedule your interview to review your eligibility for naturalization and test your knowledge of English and civics. 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.

c. Overseas Process

Active-duty service members serving overseas on orders may be interviewed and naturalized abroad at certain U.S. Embassies, Consulates, and military installations. Military Petitioners and Family Member who live in Germany should apply with USCIS Frankfurt. For more information, please contact the Military Help Line at 877-CIS-4MIL (877-247-4645) or militaryinfo@uscis.dhs.gov

3. Overseas Naturalization for Spouses of Military Members

Under section 319(e)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) and 8 U.S.C. § 1443a, a lawful permanent resident (LPR) who is married to a member of the U.S. armed forces can naturalize abroad without traveling to the U.S. In general, to be eligible for naturalization abroad under section 319(e)(2) of the INA and 8 U.S.C. § 1443a, you must:

- Be the spouse of a member of the U.S. armed forces who is stationed abroad in that capacity;
- Be authorized to accompany your spouse abroad by your spouse's official orders;
- Reside abroad in marital union with your spouse; and
- Meet the requirements of either section 316(a) or 319(a) of the INA at the time you file your naturalization application.

Section 316(a) applies to you if you have been an LPR for at least 5 years immediately before the date you file the naturalization application and have been physically present in the U.S. for periods totaling at least 2.5 years. Time spent living in marital union with your spouse who is abroad under military orders counts toward the continuous residence and physical presence requirements. Section 319(a) applies to you if:

- You have been an LPR for at least 3 continuous years immediately before the date you file your naturalization application;
- You have lived in marital union with your U.S. citizen spouse for at least 3 years immediately before you file your naturalization application;
- Your U.S. citizen spouse has been a U.S. citizen for at least 3 years immediately before you file your naturalization application; and
- You have been physically present in the U.S. for periods totaling at least 18 months out of the 3 years immediately preceding the date you file your application. Time spent living in marital union with your spouse who is abroad under military orders counts toward the continuous residence and physical presence requirements.

You can file for naturalization up to 90 calendar days before you meet the time requirement for being an LPR. For example, if you are filing under section 319(a), you can file when you have been an LPR for 2 years and 275 days. However, if you file early under section 319(a):

- You must have been married to your U.S. citizen spouse for at least 3 years at the time you file;
- Your spouse must have been a U.S. citizen for at least 3 years at the time you file; and
- Meet all other eligibility requirements such as good moral character and etc.

4. Citizenship for Family Members

Spouses of members of the U.S. Armed Forces may be eligible for expedited naturalization. Spouse and children of US citizens may also be eligible for overseas naturalization.

For information about the general naturalization requirements and procedures for spouses of U.S. citizens who do not qualify for overseas naturalization, and acquired or derived citizenship for children of service members, please visit <https://uscis.gov>.

5. The Naturalization Test

Most naturalization applicants are required to take a test on English and Civics (U.S. History and Government). USCIS provides resources to help you prepare. For more information, visit the naturalization test page in <https://uscis.gov>.

6. Contact Information

The most important number for your military immigration questions is the military help line. USCIS has established a toll-free military help line, 877-CIS-4MIL (877-247-4645), and e-mail address at militaryinfo@uscis.dhs.gov exclusively for current members of the military and their families as well as veterans: <https://www.uscis.gov/military/military-help-line>.

All client inquiries for visas should be directed to FrankfurtVisaInquiries@state.gov

All client inquiries for immigration and citizenship should be directed to:
USCIS.frankfurt@uscis.dhs.gov

For a checklist of forms and supporting documentation if filing in Frankfurt go to:

<https://www.uscis.gov/about-us/find-uscis-office/international-offices/germany-frankfurt-field-office>.

Checking the Status of Your Cases

On the Customer Home Page of USCIS.gov, you can review your receipt number, check the status of your case, read your status messages, and review your case documents.

Step 1: Enter your **Email Address** and **Password**. **Step 2:** Select the **Sign In** button.

Step 3: In the **Recent Cases** section, open the case you want to review by selecting the **View Case Details** button at the bottom to review the case information and document links.

Recent Cases

Receipt Number: N/A	Receipt Number: IOE0394518688
Request Type: Application to Replace Permanent Resident Card	Request Type: Application to Replace Permanent Resident Card
Draft Created Date: 02/25/2015	Case Received Date: 02/25/2015
Received As: EFile	Received As: EFile
Status: Draft	Status: In Process
Status Message: In Process	Status Message: Your benefit request has been accepted and is under review.
Pending Action: None	Pending Action: None
Draft Expiration Date: 03/28/2015	
Continue Draft	View Case Details for IOE0394518688

Note: You may see more than one case if you previously filed an application, petition or request online. Otherwise, you will only see the application, petition or request you recently filed. Write down the receipt number for your case to use later.

Military Help Line

Tel.: 877-CIS-4MIL (877-247-4645)
militaryinfo@uscis.dhs.gov

U.S Consulate General Frankfurt am Main
Gießener Straße 30, 60435 Frankfurt am Main
<https://de.usembassy.gov>

Visa (Nonimmigrant/Immigrant)

Visa Service Provider
[http://ustraveldocs.com/de/
frankfurtvisainquiries@state.gov](http://ustraveldocs.com/de/frankfurtvisainquiries@state.gov)

American Citizen Services

Tel.: 069-7535-2102
Fax: 069-7535-2252
GermanyACS@state.gov

Federal Benefits Unit

Tel.: 069-905-551100 (M-Fr 00:00-11:00) / Fax: 069-749-352
[https://de.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/social-security/
FBU.Frankfurt@ssa.gov](https://de.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/social-security/FBU.Frankfurt@ssa.gov)

U.S. Citizenship + Immigration Services

Tel.: 069-7535-2233
<https://de.usembassy.gov/visas/uscis-frankfurt>
[http://www.uscis.gov/about-us/find-uscis-office/international-offices/germany-frankfurt-field-
office](http://www.uscis.gov/about-us/find-uscis-office/international-offices/germany-frankfurt-field-office)
USCIS.frankfurt@uscis.dhs.gov

U.S. Passport Service

Tel.: 069-7535-2100
(M-F 2:00-4:00 PM)
FrankfurtPassports@state.gov
FrankfurtBirth@state.gov
Renunciations@state.gov

Important Links

IRS: www.irs.gov and
<https://de.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/internal-revenue-service-u-s-taxes>

Travel: www.travel.state.gov

STEP: <https://step.state.gov/step/>

Voting: <https://de.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/voting/>

ESTA: <https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/esta/esta.html>

CBP: www.cbp.gov and
<https://de.usembassy.gov/visas/customs-and-border-protection/>