

November 2014

## **MILITARY ACCESSIONS VITAL TO NATIONAL INTEREST (MAVNI) PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY**

The Military Accessions Vital to National Interest (MAVNI) program authorizes the military services to recruit those in a legal immigration status whose skills are considered to be “vital to the national interest,” and critical to the military services. Specifically, this program provides eligibility for certain health care professionals in areas where the military Services have shortfalls, and certain experts in languages critical to the Department. MAVNI was a one-year pilot initially approved in 2008 by the Department. The initial pilot program ran through December 31, 2009 and had a cap of 1,000 total recruits for all Services. The program was reinstated on May 16, 2012, with a cap of 1,500 accessions per year for all Services. Sept. 25, 2014, Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Jessica Wright signed a memorandum authorizing the extension of the MAVNI program until the end of Fiscal Year 2016.

### **Overall Eligibility:**

1. Eligibility is extended to aliens in one of the following categories at time of enlistment:
  - a. Asylee, refugee, Temporary Protected Status, or
  - b. Nonimmigrant categories E, F, H, I, J, K, L, M, O, P, Q, R, S, T, TC, TD, TN, U, or V.
  - c. Additionally, the following applies to program applicants listed above:
    - i. Must have been in a valid status in one of those categories for at least the 2 years immediately prior to the enlistment date. However, it does not have to be the same category as the one held on the date of enlistment;
    - ii. Must not have had any single absence from the United States of more than 90 days during the 2-year period immediately preceding the date of enlistment; and
    - iii. Are not rendered ineligible by virtue of having a pending application for adjustment of status to lawful permanent residence. In the specific case of an alien with H nonimmigrant status at the time of filing a pending application for adjustment of status who has lost such status while his or her application for adjustment was pending, and who is otherwise eligible for enlistment under the Military Accessions Vital to the National Interest (MAVNI) program, the military Service may on a case by case basis waive the requirement that the alien be in a category described in subparagraphs a and b above at the time of enlistment.
2. Individuals who have been granted deferred action by the Department of Homeland Security pursuant to the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) process are eligible.

## **Program Specific Eligibility (Services may add additional requirements)**

### 1. Health Care Professionals

- a. Applicants must be recruited specifically to fill medical specialties wherein the Service has a critical shortfall.
- b. Applicants must meet all qualification criteria required for their medical specialty.
- c. Applicants must meet the criteria required for foreign-trained Department of Defense medical personnel recruited under other authorities.
- d. Applicants must demonstrate proficiency in English – reading, speaking, and listening – on a standardized test in accordance with all existing Service criteria for commissioned officers.
- e. Applicants must commit to at least 3 years of Active Duty or at least 6 years in the Selected Reserve.

### 2. Enlisted Individuals with Special Language and Culture Backgrounds

Enlistments must be for at least 4 years of Active Duty service, and enlistees must:

- a. Possess specific language with associated culture capabilities in a language critical to Department of Defense (attachment 3), and
- b. Demonstrate language proficiency at the 2/2/2 level on the Defense Language Proficiency Test or 2/2 on the Oral Proficiency Interview; or as needed for the career field, but not at less than 1+ on any modality.

### **Eligible Languages**

Services may recommend additional languages to meet emerging needs or request exceptions to policy for especially meritorious individual cases to the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Military Personnel Policy.

Albanian	Czech
Amharic	French (limited to individuals possessing citizenship from an African country)
Arabic	Haitian-Creole
Azerbaijani	Hausa
Bengali	Hindi
Burmese	Hungarian
Cambodian-Khmer	Igbo
Cebuano	
Chinese	

Indonesian	Serbo-Croatian
Korean	Sindhi
Kurdish	Sinhalese
Lao	Somali
Malay	Swahili
Malayalam	Tagalog
Moro	Tajik
Nepalese	Tamil
Persian [Dari & Farsi]	Thai
Polish	Turkish
Portuguese	Turkmen
Punjabi	Urdu
Pushtu (aka Pashto)	Uzbek
Russian	Yoruba