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# Immigration Services to Support Veterans

**August 2, 2021**

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# Questions

- Submit written questions to us through the “Q&A box” that appears to the right of the slide deck on your screen.
- We will review every question submitted and determine if we can address concerns arising from the stakeholder community.
- Due to time constraints, we may not be able to answer every question.
- If you are a member of the media, please reach out to DHS Public Affairs with any inquiries.



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# **Office of the Citizenship and Immigration Services Ombudsman**

**CIS Ombudsman: Phyllis Coven**



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# Participating Agencies



U.S. Customs and Border Protection



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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE



U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement



U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

# Commitment to Supporting Noncitizen Service Members, Veterans, and Immediate Family Members of Service Members

“The Department of Homeland Security recognizes the profound commitment and sacrifice that service members and their families have made to the United States of America. Together with our partner the Department of Veterans Affairs, we are committed to bringing back military service members, veterans, and their immediate family members who were unjustly removed and ensuring they receive the benefits to which they may be entitled. Today we are taking important steps to make that a reality.”

- Alejandro N. Mayorkas, Secretary of DHS

“It’s our responsibility to serve all veterans as well as they have served us – no matter who they are, where they are from, or the status of their citizenship. Keeping that promise means ensuring that noncitizen service members, veterans, and their families are guaranteed a place in the country they swore an oath – and in many cases fought – to defend. We at VA are proud to work alongside DHS as to make that happen.”

- Denis R. McDonough, Secretary of the VA

# Commitment to Supporting Noncitizen Service Members, Veterans, and Immediate Family Members of Service Members

## DHS will:

- Establish a robust interagency coordination effort with the DOD and VA.
- Facilitate better access to appropriate VA benefits, legal counsel, and the U.S. legal system for purposes of requesting post-conviction relief or reopening of removal proceedings and immigration benefits
- Establish an online DHS Military Resource Center
- Remove barriers to naturalization
- Review policies and practices involving removal decisions and exercise prosecutorial discretion
- Strengthen parole in place and other forms of relief



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# Outreach

# Outreach and Communication for Military Naturalization

- Naturalization for eligible individuals, including current and former members of the U.S. military and their families, carries significant benefits for these individuals and for the national interests of the United States.
- USCIS has an established military naturalization promotion program, with outreach and communications strategies to work with DOD, VA, military members, and their families to support and promote naturalization.

## *Potential Outreach through VSOs/MSOs*

- USCIS is working with DOD and VA to promote naturalization.
- We would like to work with your organizations to help interested eligible veterans learn how to apply to become naturalized U.S. citizens.
- We are very interested in learning your ideas and hope we can partner with you to share materials and support our eligible veterans on their path to citizenship.

# Interagency Strategy to Promote Naturalization

- USCIS is committed to maximizing access to naturalization for all eligible service members and veterans, consistent with President Biden’s Executive Order 14012, “Restoring Faith in Our Legal Immigration Systems and Strengthening Integration and Inclusion Efforts for New Americans.”
- On May 28, 2021, USCIS published updated policy guidance in the USCIS Policy Manual to highlight naturalization eligibility and procedures in place for veterans who are residing outside the United States and seek to apply for naturalization.
- This update is aimed to ensure eligible veterans who served honorably during designated periods of hostility and meet all other statutory requirements for naturalization can naturalize and become U.S. citizens in accordance with U.S. immigration laws.
- USCIS, in consultation with the Department of Defense and U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, continues to facilitate the naturalization process for current service members, veterans, and eligible family members.

# Topics

- In this engagement, we will talk about the following topics:
  - Eligibility for Naturalization for Veterans
  - Posthumous Citizenship for Military Service Members
  - Eligibility for Naturalization for Spouses of Veterans
  - Acquisition of Citizenship for Veterans and Their Children
  - Naturalization for Spouses, Children, and Surviving Family Benefits
  - Immigrant Family Petitions and Adjustment of Status
  - Parole in Place
  - Parole/Humanitarian Parole





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# Overview of Naturalization for Military Veterans

# General Naturalization Requirements (INA 316)

General requirements for all naturalization applicants (under section 316 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA)) include:

- Over 18 years old
- Lawfully admitted for permanent residence
- Residence in the U.S. for 5 years immediately prior to filing and through the time of admission to citizenship, and physical presence for at least 30 months of those 5 years
- Lived in the state or USCIS district with jurisdiction for at least 3 months
- Good moral character (GMC) for 5 years
- Able to read, write, and speak and understand English
- Knowledge of U.S. government and history
- Attachment to the principles of the U.S. Constitution and be well disposed to the good order and happiness of the United States
- Taking the Oath of Allegiance

# Military Provisions – INA 328 and INA 329

- Sections 328 and 329 of the INA provide for expediting the naturalization process for current service members and recently discharged members who served honorably during peacetime (328) or during designated periods of hostilities (329).
- Military members and certain military family members may be exempt from meeting the periods of residence and physical presence in the United States. INA 328 and INA 329 provisions.
- Generally, qualifying military service includes service with: Army, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard. Both active duty and certain Reserve and National Guard service may qualify.
- The Department of Defense certifies whether the service member served “honorably” and whether any separation was under honorable conditions. This is done through Form N-426, Request for Certification of Military or Naval Service, and for service members who have separated from service, through Form DD-214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, NGB-22, National Guard Report of Separation and Record of Service, or other equivalent discharge documents.
- Generally, USCIS seeks to expedite applications filed by service members, family members, and veterans. In most cases, USCIS will:
  - Use previous fingerprints to satisfy background checks unless a more efficient method is available (if new fingerprint collection would result in more timely adjudication, DHS will provide the applicant with information on how to submit fingerprints); and
  - USCIS seeks to process and adjudicate naturalization applications filed under certain military-related provisions generally within six months of the receipt date.

# Naturalization under INA 328 (during Peace Time)

- Section 328 applies to members or veterans who served during peacetime in the U.S. Armed Forces. Requirements include:
  - Honorable service for a year or more during peace time
  - If separated, separated under honorable conditions
  - Applicant is 18 years of age or older
  - Lawful permanent resident status at time of examination on naturalization application
  - Good moral character for at least 5 years
- The applicant is exempt from the residence and physical presence requirements for naturalization if the application was filed while in service or within six months of separation, but otherwise the applicant must have continuously resided in the United States for at least 5 years and was physically present in the United States for at least 30 months out of the 5 years immediately preceding the application date.
- Honorable service within the five years immediately preceding the application date will be counted as residence and physical presence within the United States.

# Naturalization under INA 329 (during Hostilities)

- To be eligible under INA 329, an applicant (current members and veterans) must:
  - Have honorable service in active duty or the Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve in the U.S. Armed Forces during a designated period of hostility;
  - If separated from service, be separated under honorable conditions;
  - Be an LPR *or* be present in one of the following areas at the time of enlistment (lawful permanent residence (LPR) status is not required);
    - In the United States, the Canal Zone, American Samoa, or Swains Island, or
    - On board a public vessel owned or operated by the United States for noncommercial service.
  - Demonstrate good moral character for at least one year before filing a Form N-400, and during the period leading to administration of the Oath of Allegiance;
  - Pass the English and Civics test unless excepted based on age and time as an LPR or an N-648 exception is approved; and
  - Demonstrate an attachment to the Constitution.
- There are no requirements for residence or physical presence.



# Naturalization under INA 329 (during Hostilities)

- An applicant who applies for naturalization on the basis of honorable military service during hostilities is not required to be an LPR if certain conditions apply as described below.
- Some veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces who were honorably discharged but are not LPRs may still be eligible to naturalize under INA 329 even if they are currently residing outside the United States.
- In order to start the process, an applicant files [Form N-400, Application for Naturalization](#).
- Updated policy guidance clarifies that USCIS may coordinate with CBP to schedule a naturalization interview at a port of entry or facilitate the admission or parole of the veteran into the United States for the purpose of attending a naturalization interview and ceremony (if approved).
- There is no application fee requirement for veterans who apply for naturalization based upon their military service.

# Designated Periods of Hostilities

Designated Periods of Hostilities			
<b>World War I</b>	April 6, 1917	→	November 11, 1918
<b>World War II</b>	September 1, 1939	→	December 31, 1946
<b>Korean Conflict</b>	June 25, 1950	→	July 1, 1955
<b>Vietnam Hostilities</b>	February 28, 1961	→	October 15, 1978
<b>Persian Gulf Conflict</b>	August 2, 1990	→	April 11, 1991
<b>War on Terrorism</b>	September 11, 2001	→	Present

# Good Moral Character Requirements

- Good moral character requirements of the INA provide that certain criminal convictions are permanent bars, and an applicant is unable to naturalize regardless of when they apply (See INA 101(f), INA 316(a)(3), 8 CFR 316.10, and INA 101(a)(43)).
- Permanent bars to establishing good moral character include (See USCIS Policy Manual, Volume 12, Part F, Chapter 4 for complete list):
  - Murder at any time.
  - Aggravated felonies on or after Nov. 29, 1990, which include but are not limited to: rape, sexual abuse of a minor, illicit trafficking in controlled substance, illicit trafficking in firearms or destructive devices, explosive materials and firearms offenses, crime of violence (imprisonment term of at least one year), theft offense (imprisonment term of at least one year), or a child pornography offense.
  - Additional permanent bars include involvement with genocide, torture, extrajudicial killings, Nazi persecution, or particularly severe violations of religious freedoms.

# Good Moral Character Requirements

- The INA and corresponding regulations also include conditional bars to good moral character. These bars are triggered by specific acts, offenses, activities, circumstances, or convictions within the statutory period for naturalization, including the period before filing and up to the Oath of Allegiance (See INA 316(a)).
- Some of the conditional bars include (See USCIS Policy Manual, Volume 12, Part F, Chapter 5 for full list):
  - Controlled substance violations, one or more crimes involving moral turpitude, smuggling of a person, two or more convictions for driving under the influence, and failure to support dependents.
- The good moral character bars and requirements listed in this session are statutory requirements that would require Congressional action to change.
- An offense that does not fall within a permanent or conditional bar to good moral character may nonetheless, affect an applicant's ability to establish good moral character.



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# Posthumous Citizenship for Military Members (INA 329A)

# Posthumous Citizenship (INA 329A)

- Generally, a person who serves honorably in an active-duty status in the U.S. armed forces during a designated period of hostility and dies as a result of injury or disease incurred in or aggravated by that service may be eligible for posthumous citizenship.
- Form N-644, *Application for Posthumous Citizenship*, must be filed by the service member's next of kin or the decedent's representative, the Department of Defense, or USCIS within 2 years for the service member's death.
- If the Form N-644 is approved, the service member is considered a citizen of the United States as of the date of their death and a Certificate of Citizenship will be issued in the name of the deceased veteran.

# Military Naturalization Statistics

- Since 2002, we have naturalized more than 139,000 members of the U.S. military, both at home and abroad.
- Naturalization ceremonies have taken place in more than 30 countries from Albania to the United Arab Emirates.
- In the last five years (fiscal years 2016 – 2020), we have naturalized almost 30,000 service members.
- In FY 2020, we naturalized more than 4,500 service members, about the same number as the previous year.
- Authorization for the Military Accessions Vital to the National Interest (MAVNI) program expired on Sept. 30, 2017, contributing to a decrease in military naturalizations. The MAVNI program, authorized by the Department of Defense in 2008, allowed certain individuals who were not U.S. citizens, nationals or lawful permanent residents to enlist if they had skills considered vital to the national interest.
- For additional information see [www.uscis.gov/military/military-naturalization-statistics](https://www.uscis.gov/military/military-naturalization-statistics)



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# Spouses, Children, and Surviving Family Benefits

# Naturalization for Spouses and Children

- LPR spouses of service members and children of U.S. citizen service members may be eligible for naturalization under certain provisions in the INA (a spouse must be married to the service member up until the Oath of Allegiance).
- In general, a spouse is required to be present in the United States after admission as an LPR for the naturalization examination and for taking the Oath of Allegiance.
- LPR spouses of service members who are serving outside the United States may be eligible to naturalize abroad if they are authorized to accompany the service member and are residing outside the United States in marital union with the service member (See INA 319(e)). In these cases, residence and physical presence abroad counts as residence and physical presence in the United States.
- LPR spouses of U.S. citizen service members who are or will be deployed (for a period of 1 year or more) may be eligible for expedited naturalization in the United States and may not be required to establish any prior period of residence or specified period of physical presence within the United States, as generally required for naturalization (See INA 319(b)).
- A spouse must demonstrate good moral character for at least three years prior to filing the application until the time of naturalization.

# Spouses

Residence, Physical Presence, and Overseas Naturalization for Spouses of Members of the U.S. Armed Forces				
INA Section	Residence	Physical Presence	Treatment of Time Residing Abroad	Overseas Naturalization
<a href="#"><u>316(a)</u></a>	LPR for 5 years	30 months	Time residing with spouse serving abroad may be treated as residence and physical presence in the United States ( <a href="#"><u>INA 319(e)</u></a> )	May complete entire naturalization process from abroad
<a href="#"><u>319(a)</u></a>	LPR for 3 years	18 months		
<a href="#"><u>319(b)</u></a>	Must be LPR but no specified period of residence or physical presence is required			Must complete interview and oath in United States

# Acquisition of Citizenship Under INA 320 Naturalization of Children Under INA 322

- Service Members and Veterans
  - If the service member or veteran was under the age of 18, when the qualified parent naturalized or when the service member or veteran was adopted by a U.S. citizen parent, then the service member or veteran may already be a citizen.
  - N-600, Application for Certificate of Citizenship - <https://www.uscis.gov/n-600>
- Children of Service Members
  - Children of U.S. citizen service members may be eligible for automatic U.S. citizenship under special provisions in the INA. Qualifying children of current military members may not need to be present in the United States to acquire citizenship under INA 320 or naturalize under INA 322.
  - Upon the service member or veteran's naturalization or after being adopted by a U.S. citizen service member or veteran, children under the age of 18 may be eligible for a certificate of citizenship.
  - Children residing in the United States or abroad, under certain conditions, who automatically acquire citizenship may file a Form N-600, under section 320.
  - Children residing abroad who are eligible to naturalize but did not automatically acquire citizenship may file a Form N-600K, Application for Citizenship and Issuance of Certificate Under Section 322 with appropriate fee.

# Children of U.S. Citizens

Residence, Lawful Admission, and Citizenship and Naturalization for Children of Members of the U.S. Armed Forces Outside the United States				
INA Section	Place of Residence	Lawful Admission	Treatment of Time Residing Outside the United States	Automatic Citizenship or Naturalization Outside the United States
<a href="#"><u>320</u></a>	United States (or certain children residing outside the United States with a parent who is a member of the U.S. armed forces or spouse of a member of the U.S. armed forces)	Must be LPR	Must reside with U.S. citizen parent in the United States	May acquire automatic citizenship (must take oath and be issued the Certificate of Citizenship in the United States)
<a href="#"><u>322</u></a>	Outside the United States	No lawful admission required if child meets INA 322(d) requirements	Must reside with U.S. citizen parent stationed outside of the United States	Children who have not already acquired citizenship under INA 320, must apply, but may complete entire naturalization process from outside the United States (must take oath before 18th birthday)

# Surviving Relatives (Spouses, Children, Parents)

- Spouses, children, and parents of U.S. citizen service members, including service members who were granted posthumous citizenship, who die during a period of honorable service in an active-duty status may be eligible for naturalization (See INA 319(d)).
  - The U.S. citizen died while serving during a period of honorable service in an active duty status
  - Service does not need to be during a designated period of hostility
  - Spouse must be an LPR at time of interview and must have been living in marital union with the citizen spouse at the time of the spouse's death
  - Relatives must meet all other requirements for naturalization, except for the residence and physical presence requirements listed in 8 CFR 316.2(a)(3) - (a)(6).
- Surviving family members seeking immigration benefits are given special consideration in the processing of their applications for permanent residence or for classification as an immediate relative.

# USCIS Naturalization Military Help Line

- Toll-free "Military Help Line" : 1-877-CIS-4MIL (1-877-247-4645) TTY 800-877-8339
- Email: [militaryinfo@uscis.dhs.gov](mailto:militaryinfo@uscis.dhs.gov).
- Website: Military Help Line  
<https://www.uscis.gov/military/military-help-line>
- Website: <https://www.uscis.gov/military/military>



# Filing for Naturalization

## Application for Naturalization (Form N-400)

- File Online [www.uscis.gov/n-400](http://www.uscis.gov/n-400)

## By Mail

### For U.S. Postal Service (USPS):

USCIS

P.O. Box 4446

Chicago, IL 60680-4446

### For FedEx, UPS, or DHL deliveries:

USCIS

Attn: Military N-400

131 S. Dearborn, 3rd Floor

Chicago, IL 60603-5517



# Resources: Naturalization and Citizenship

- Policy Guidance

- Volume 12, Part I - Military Members and their Families: [www.uscis.gov/policy-manual/volume-12-part-i](http://www.uscis.gov/policy-manual/volume-12-part-i)

- Resources for Military Applicants and their Families: [www.uscis.gov/military/military](http://www.uscis.gov/military/military)

- <https://www.uscis.gov/military/naturalization-through-military-service>

- Resources for Educational Programs

- <https://www.uscis.gov/citizenship/resources-for-educational-programs>

# Family Petitions and Adjustment of Status

- To be eligible for naturalization, family members must first apply for lawful permanent residence.
- The service member first files a **Form I-130, Petition for Alien Relative**, including the biometrics fee. Once approved, the family member may apply to adjust status by **filing Form I-485, Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status**. These forms may be filed concurrently.
- Upon obtaining U.S. citizenship, the service member or veteran may file Form I-130 for immediate relatives, including spouses, children, and parents of U.S. citizens. An LPR service member or veteran may also file Form I-130 on behalf of a spouse or child.
- The Department of State may process Form I-130 petitions filed by military family members stationed overseas. The naturalization application will still be processed by USCIS.
- If the spouse of a service member receives an adjustment of status interview appointment notice while the service member is deployed, the USCIS office will conduct the interview.
- A spouse, child, or parent of a U.S. citizen who died as a result of injury or disease incurred in or aggravated by combat while serving honorably in an active-duty status in the U.S. armed forces may be eligible for adjustment of status as an “immediate relative” by filing a **Form I-360, Petition for Amerasian, Widow(er), or Special Immigrant**, within two years after the service member’s death.



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# Overview of Military-Related Parole in Place and Military Deferred Action

# Parole in General (USCIS, CBP, and ICE)

- Parole may be used to allow a noncitizen, who may be inadmissible or have no other immigration options, to come to and stay in the United States for a temporary period.
- The statute provides authority for parole at INA 212(d)(5):  
*The Secretary of Homeland Security may, **in his or her discretion**, parole into the United States temporarily, under such conditions as he or she may prescribe, on a case by case basis, **for urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit**, any alien applying for admission to the U.S.*
- DHS's parole authority is delegated to USCIS, ICE, and CBP. These agencies may grant parole in different circumstances. For example, CBP has the authority to grant parole at ports of entry into the U.S.

# Different Circumstances Involving Parole

- **Advance Parole Document for Individuals Outside the U.S.** – Noncitizens outside the U.S. may apply for an Advance Parole Document with USCIS in advance of their traveling to a U.S. port of entry to seek entry; also known as humanitarian parole
- **Parole at Entry** - Noncitizens outside the U.S. may request parole with CBP at the time they seek to enter the U.S. at a U.S. port of entry
- **Parole in Place** – Noncitizens in the U.S. who entered the United States without admission may apply for parole in place with USCIS, which permits them to remain in the U.S. temporarily for the authorized parole period; generally limited to certain military family members
- **Advanced Parole Document for Individuals Inside the U.S.** – Noncitizens inside the U.S. who seek temporary travel abroad may apply for an Advanced Parole Document with USCIS, which will authorize the individual to appear at a port of entry following travel outside the U.S. and seek parole into the U.S.; issuance of an Advance Parole Document preserves certain applications pending at the time of the trip (such as an adjustment of status application), such that USCIS does not consider the application abandoned upon the noncitizen's departure

# Some Characteristics of Parole

- **Parole does not constitute an admission into the United States.**
  - The grant of parole will allow the parolee to enter or remain in the United States. A Form I-94, *Arrival/Departure Record*, is issued to the parolee documenting the length of his or her authorized parole period. Since parole does not constitute an admission, individuals who are otherwise inadmissible may be “paroled” into the United States.
- **Parole does not confer any immigration “status.”**
  - Parole is not intended to be used as a vehicle to circumvent normal visa processing or statutory provisions governing family-based visas. However, in certain situations, a parolee if otherwise eligible may be able to obtain lawful immigration status in the United States through other means.
- **Parole is finite.**
  - Parole terminates automatically, generally without notice upon the parolee’s departure from the United States, upon obtaining an immigration status, or upon the expiration of his or her parole status noted on the Form I-94, whichever is sooner. The Secretary of Homeland Security, in his or her discretion, may also decide to exercise authority to terminate parole at any time if it is no longer warranted.
- **Parolees may obtain employment authorization.**
  - USCIS may grant a parolee temporary employment authorization as a matter of discretion if the parolee requests employment authorization by filing Form I-765, *Application for Employment Authorization*.

# Military Parole in Place (USCIS)

- Parole in Place allows noncitizens present in the United States who are applicants for admission to remain in the United States for urgent humanitarian reasons or for significant public benefit, generally limited to certain military family members.
  - In 2013, USCIS first introduced the parole in place policy for certain military family members.
  - In 2016, USCIS supplemented the parole in place policy with a deferred action option.
  - In 2019, Congress reaffirmed the authority to grant parole in place by addressing military parole in place in legislation.
- A noncitizen may be eligible for military parole in place if he or she is the spouse, widow(er), parent, son, or daughter of an active-duty member of the U.S. Armed Forces, an individual in the Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve, or an individual (whether still living or deceased) who previously served on active duty or in the Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve and was not dishonorably discharged.
  - *(If the service member is now deceased, the surviving family member must have been residing in the U.S. at the time the service member died.)*
- The fact that the applicant is a spouse, parent, son, or daughter of such a service member ordinarily weighs heavily in favor of parole in place absent a criminal conviction or other serious adverse factors.

# Military Parole in Place (USCIS) (cont'd)

- All parole requests are assessed on a case-by-case basis.
- Parole in place is generally granted in one-year increments, with extensions of parole as appropriate.
- Parole is only available to applicants for admission; military parole in place is therefore only available to noncitizens present in the U.S. without admission. Individuals who were admitted to the U.S. but are currently present beyond their periods of authorized stay are not eligible for parole in place since they are no longer applicants for admission. These noncitizens may be eligible for military deferred action, however.



# Requesting Military Parole in Place from USCIS

To request military parole in place, submit to the USCIS field office with jurisdiction over your residence:

- Completed Application for Travel Document (Form I-131);
- Two identical, color, passport-style photographs; and

Evidence of any additional favorable discretionary factors that the requestor wishes considered.

- Evidence of the family relationship to the veteran (this may include proof of filing a petition in certain cases);
- Evidence that the service member is a veteran such as a photocopy of both the front and back of the service member's military identification card (e.g. DD Form 1173) (veterans must not have received a dishonorable discharge upon separation from the military); and
- In the case of surviving family members, proof of residence in the United States at the time of the veteran's death.

# Military Deferred Action (USCIS)

- Deferred action is a discretionary determination to defer a removal action of a noncitizen as an act of prosecutorial discretion. Deferred action allows noncitizens without lawful status to remain in the United States.
- In 2016, USCIS supplemented its military parole in place policy with a deferred action option to address the circumstances of certain military family members who were present in the U.S. but ineligible for parole in place.
- You may be eligible for military deferred action if you are a spouse, widow(er), parent, son, or daughter of a veteran. (Veteran is defined here as an individual who (whether still living or deceased) previously served on active duty or in the Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve and was not dishonorably discharged.)
  - *(If the service member is now deceased, the surviving family member must have been residing in the U.S. at the time the service member died.)*
- In all deferred action determinations USCIS makes a case-by-case, discretionary judgment based on the totality of the evidence.
- USCIS generally authorizes deferred action in two-year increments, with renewals of deferred action as appropriate.

# Requesting Military Deferred Action from USCIS

To request deferred action, submit to the USCIS field office with jurisdiction over your place of residence:

- Letter stating basis for the deferred action request;
- Proof of identity and nationality (such as birth certificate, passport, driver's license);
- Completed Biographic Information (for Deferred Action) ([Form G-325A](#))
- Two identical, color, passport-style photographs;
- Any document used to lawfully enter the U.S. (such as Form I-94, passport with visa and/or admission stamp);
- Evidence of the family relationship to the service member (this may include proof of filing a petition in certain cases), if applicable;
- Evidence that the service member is or was a veteran such as a photocopy of both the front and back of the service member's military identification card (e.g., DD Form 1173) (veterans must not have received a dishonorable discharge upon separation from the military);
- In the case of surviving family members, proof of residence in the United States at the time of the service member's death; and
- Evidence of any additional favorable discretionary factors that the requestor wishes considered.

# Requesting Parole and Deferred Action with USCIS

- Humanitarian Parole

- Form I-131, Application for Travel Document - <https://www.uscis.gov/i-131>

- Deferred Action

- Form G-325A, Biographic Information (for Deferred Action) - [www.uscis.gov/g-325a](http://www.uscis.gov/g-325a)

# Resources: Military Parole in Place and Military Deferred Action

- Discretionary Options for Military Members, Enlistees and Their Families-  
<https://www.uscis.gov/military/discretionary-options-for-military-members-enlistees-and-their-families>
- USCIS Adjudicator's Field Manual Chapter 21.1(c), *Special Parole and Deferred Action Considerations*  
<https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/policy-manual-afm/afm21-external.pdf>
- Policy Memorandum, *Parole of Spouses, Children and Parents of Active Duty Members of the U.S. Armed Forces, the Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve, and Former Members of the U.S. Armed Forces or Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve and the Effect of Parole on Inadmissibility under Immigration and Nationality Act Section 212(a)(6)(A)(i)*, PM-602-0091 (November 15, 2013)  
[https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/memos/2013-1115\\_Parole\\_in\\_Place\\_Memo\\_.pdf](https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/memos/2013-1115_Parole_in_Place_Memo_.pdf)
- Policy Memorandum, *Discretionary Options for Designated Spouses, Parents, and Sons and Daughters of Certain Military Personnel, Veterans, and Enlistees*, PM-602-0114 (November 23, 2016)  
[https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/memos/PIP-DA\\_Military\\_Final\\_112316.pdf](https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/memos/PIP-DA_Military_Final_112316.pdf)
- Military Parole Legislation- Section 1758 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020, Pub. L. 116-92, 133 Stat. 1198, 1860 (December 20, 2019)  
<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/PLAW-116publ92/pdf/PLAW-116publ92.pdf>

# Waiver & Parole Applications at U.S. Ports of Entry



U.S. Customs and Border Protection  
Office of the Commissioner  
Policy Directorate  
July 2021

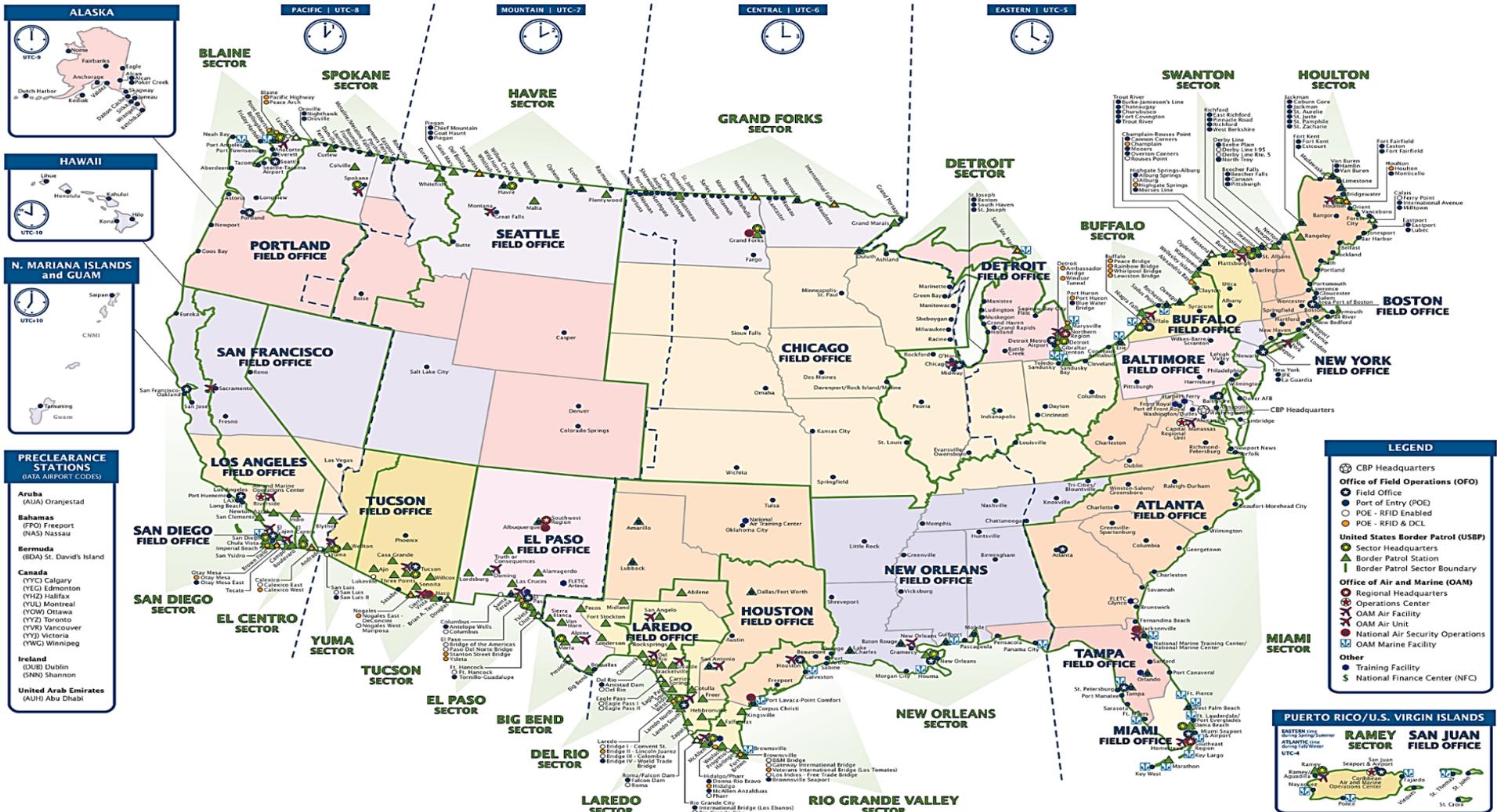
# CBP Organizational Overview, Vision, & Mission

CBP is one of the world's largest law enforcement organizations, with over 60,100 employees, and is charged with keeping terrorists and their weapons out of the U.S. while facilitating lawful travel and trade.

As the United States' first unified border entity, CBP takes a comprehensive approach to border management and control, combining customs, immigration, border security, and agricultural protection into one coordinated and supportive activity.



# CBP Ports of Entry & Overall Field Footprint



# CBP & POEs - Relevant Points of Contact

- Additional information regarding specific POE locations, POE processes, and/or answers to frequently asked POE questions, can be found at the links below:
  - [CBP Ports of Entry | Main Web-Page](#)
  - [CBP Local Port of Entry Locator Tool Web-Page](#)



# Veterans Engagement Action Centers

July 26, 2021

**John Boerstler**

Chief Veterans Experience Officer

*"Every decision I make will be determined by a simple principle, that it increases Veterans' access to care and benefits and improves outcomes for them"-  
Secretary Denis McDonough, United States Department of Veterans Affairs*

# Veterans Experience Action Centers



**6**  
VEACs held



**2,866**  
Veterans and families served



**22**  
Non-VA organizations coordinated

## PARTICIPANTS

**94%** Veteran  
**22%** Female  
**3%** Military  
**2%** Family  
**1%** Caregiver

## PRIMARY SERVICES REQUESTED

**70%** Veterans Benefits  
**19%** Veterans Health  
**6%** Community  
**3%** Appeals  
**2%** Memorial Services

Veterans Experience Action Centers (VEACs) are virtual or in-person events hosted by the Department of Veterans Affairs in coordination with State and Community organizations to **quickly connect Veterans and their families to needed resources.**

## VEAC PROCESS



# VEAC Outreach and Engagement Efforts



## NEW TO VEACS: PEER-TO-PEER SUPPORT

6 VEAC sites in 2021 and 2022 will pilot a new referral process to existing peer-to-peer networks in an effort to reduce Veteran suicide in accordance with House Report 116-63 (VetsCorps).

### This pilot will:

- » Refer to both VA and non-VA mental health support networks
- » Integrate with local Community Veterans Engagement Boards (CVEBs)
- » Leverage volunteers trained in suicide prevention and crisis intervention where appropriate
- » Increase outreach to Veterans in the pilot communities



Whether just getting out of the military or have been a civilian for many years, **DOWNLOAD THE VA WELCOME KIT**, at <https://www.va.gov/welcome-kit/>, to help guide you to the benefits and services you have earned.

**SIGN UP TO RECEIVE #VETRESOURCES** for weekly information on resources for Veterans, their families, caregivers and survivors at [www.va.gov/VetResources](http://www.va.gov/VetResources).

**DISCOVER VIRTUAL EVENTS** for Veterans, their families, caregivers and survivors at <https://www.va.gov/outreach-and-events/events/>.

# Other Helpful Resources

- Department of Justice, Servicemember and Veteran Initiative: [www.servicemembers.gov](http://www.servicemembers.gov)
- U.S. Armed Forces Legal Assistance: <https://legalassistance.law.af.mil/>
- American Bar Association's, Standing Committee on Legal Assistance for Military Personnel (LAMP) –[https://www.americanbar.org/groups/legal\\_assistance\\_military\\_personnel/](https://www.americanbar.org/groups/legal_assistance_military_personnel/)
- Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) Office of Servicemember Affairs (OSA) - <https://www.consumerfinance.gov/consumer-tools/educator-tools/servicemembers/>



**Homeland  
Security**

# Q&A Session

# Applying for A Waiver or Parole at Port of Entry

- Any person may apply for a waiver or parole at a Port of Entry at any time
  - A port parole is generally authorized for emergent and/or unforeseen circumstances to temporarily enter the United States
- There is no advance adjudication of a waiver or parole to enter the United States at a Port of Entry and no guarantee of approval
- Common causes for denying a waiver or parole request include (but are not limited to):
  - Circumstances that do not constitute a medical emergency
  - Traveler had ample time to apply for a visa
  - Applying for a parole or waiver to circumvent admissibility requirements
  - Previous immigration and/or criminal history



Homeland  
Security



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