

Another Benefit of Military Service: Naturalization based on Military Service

Current members of the U.S. Armed Forces who are permanent residents may be eligible for naturalization through their military service under Section 329 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA). Qualifying military service is generally in the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and certain components of the National Guard and the Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve.

How to apply. Service members should complete the following forms in order to apply for Naturalization based on Military Service: Form N-400, Application for Naturalization, and Form N-426, Request for Certification of Military or Naval Service. The forms can be found on www.uscis.gov. Service members are not charged filing or biometrics fees.

Every military installation should have a designated point-of-contact (POC) to handle your application and certify your Request for Certification of Military or Naval Service (Form N-426). The POC for Schofield Barracks is Mr. Castillo at the Soldier Support Center, Building 750, 808-655-7182.

You will need to get fingerprints taken as part of the application process. Active duty military members do not need an appointment and will be accepted on a walk-in basis at any Application Support Center (ASC) in the United States. You should bring your military ID with you to the ASC. The local Application Support Center (ASC) is located at: 500 Ala Moana Boulevard, Building 2, Room 429, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813.

Once your packet is complete, submit the N-400 package to the Nebraska Service Center (NSC) at the following address: PO Box 87426, Lincoln, NE 68501-7426.

Once your application is received, the NSC will review the application and send it to the USCIS office closest to your location. The USCIS office will set a date to interview you to determine your eligibility for naturalization. If your application for naturalization is approved, USCIS will inform you of the date you can take the oath of allegiance.

Expedited Process. If you need to rush your paperwork due to a pending military deployment, extreme emergency, or humanitarian situation, please contact your local USCIS office or the USCIS Military Help Line at 877-247-4645. If you are set to deploy and have not submitted your application, write in bold letters “I HAVE AN UPCOMING DEPLOYMENT” at the top of your application.

If you need further immigration assistance, you may consult a Legal Assistance Attorney at 808-655-8607, or visit the local USCIS office at 500 Ala Moana Blvd, Building 2, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813. Every first Friday of the month is Military Day at the USCIS office, and you make walk in to receive assistance.