



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

Naturalization Through Military Service

Fact Sheet

November 2021

Current and former service members of the United States military who served honorably may qualify for naturalization based on their military service. For additional information on eligibility for naturalization, see www.uscis.gov/policy-manual/volume-12-part-i-chapter-3.

PROCESS

- There are two ways for military members to qualify for naturalization based on their military service (1) One Year of Military Service At Any Time or (2) Service During Periods of Hostility.
- Current service members may complete their naturalization process abroad.
- Eligible former service members must complete the naturalization process, including attending the naturalization interview and taking the Oath of Allegiance, in the United States.

HOW TO APPLY

- Many military installations have a designated USCIS liaison to help you with the naturalization application process. These liaisons are typically assigned to a specific office (for example, your installation's community service center, DOS family liaison office or Judge Advocate General).
- File Form N-400, Application for Naturalization, **without fee**, at www.uscis.gov/n-400 with all required evidence including:
 - ♦ A completed Form N-426, Request for Certification of Military or Naval Service (www.uscis.gov/n-426). Ask your chain of command to certify your honorable military service.
 - If you have already separated from the U.S. armed forces, you still must submit a completed Form N-426, but the Form N-426 may be uncertified. You must also submit a photocopy of your DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, NGB Form 22, National Guard Report of Separation and Record of Service, or other official discharge document for all periods of service.
 - See N-400 form instructions for additional evidence requirements.

WHERE TO SEND APPLICATION

Online: [Create an online account](http://www.uscis.gov/n-400) and filing your Form N-400 online. See www.uscis.gov/n-400.

By Mail:

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

ELIGIBILITY:

One Year of Military Service At Any Time

If you served honorably in the U.S. armed forces for at least one year at any time, you may be eligible to apply for naturalization. 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:

- Be 18 years old or older;
- Have served honorably at any time in the U.S. armed forces for a period or periods totaling at least one year;
- Have submitted a completed [Form N-426, Request for Certification of Military or Naval Service \(PDF, 418.02 KB\)](#), at the time of filing your N-400;
- Demonstrate that if separated from service, you were never separated except under honorable conditions;
- Be a lawful permanent resident at the time of your naturalization interview;
- Meet certain residence and physical presence requirements;
- Demonstrate the ability to read, write and speak English unless qualified for a waiver or exception;
- Demonstrate knowledge of U.S. history and government unless excepted;
- Demonstrate good moral character for at least five years before filing your N-400 through the day you naturalize; and
- Demonstrate an attachment to the principles of the U.S. Constitution and be well disposed to the good order and happiness of the United States during all relevant periods under the law.

Service During Periods of Hostility

To establish eligibility under INA 329, you must:

- Be of any age;
- Have served honorably in the U.S. armed forces during a designated period of hostility, and if separated, have been separated under honorable conditions from your qualifying period of service;

Designated Periods of Hostilities Since 1950

From	To
June 25, 1920	July 1, 1955
Feb. 28, 1961	Oct. 15, 1978
Aug. 2, 1990	April 11, 1991
Sept. 11, 2001	Present

- Have submitted a completed [Form N-426, Request for Certification of Military or Naval Service \(PDF, 418.02 KB\)](#), at the time of filing your N-400;
- Be a lawful permanent resident or have been physically present at the time of enlistment, reenlistment, extension of service, or induction into the U.S. armed forces:
 - ♦ 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 the ability to read, write, and speak English unless qualified for a waiver or exception;
- Demonstrate knowledge of U.S. history and government unless excepted;

- Demonstrate good moral character for at least one year prior to filing your N-400 through the day you naturalize; and
- Demonstrate an attachment to the principles of the U.S. Constitution and be well disposed to the good order and happiness of the United States during all relevant periods under the law.

An applicant who files based on military service during hostilities is exempt from the general naturalization requirements of continuous residence and physical presence.

BIOMETRICS

- We 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, we will use these fingerprints, if available.
 - ♦ If residing or stationed abroad, you may submit two properly completed FD-258 fingerprint cards and two passport-style photos taken by the military police or officials with the Department of Homeland Security, U.S. embassy, or U.S. consulate.
 - ♦ You may go to an application support center (ASC) in the United States and submit your fingerprints. If you are a current or former service member, we allow you to submit your fingerprints at an ASC before you file your Form N-400. Please be sure to bring evidence of your prior or current military service, such as, but not limited to your military ID, official orders, enlistment contract, and/or discharge document.

AFTER FILING THE APPLICATION

- 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.
- The field office will schedule your interview to review your eligibility for naturalization and test your knowledge of English and civics.
- If we find that you are eligible for naturalization, we will inform you of the date you can take the Oath of Allegiance and become a U.S. citizen.

CONTACT

- For additional information about naturalization current or former service members may contact: 877-CIS-4MIL (877-247-4645, TTY 800-877-8339) or militaryinfo@uscis.dhs.gov.
- For general information about parole and other military related questions please contact immvets@hq.dhs.gov.

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