

Military Paths to Citizenship

Source: United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)

Who can join the military?

United States citizens, permanent residents, MAVNI eligible individuals, Undocumented immigrants and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients cannot join the military.

RELEVANT FORMS

Form N-400, Application for Naturalization; Form N-426, Certification of Military or Naval Service; Form I-485, Application to Register Permanent Resident or Adjust Status; Form N-644, Application for Posthumous Citizenship.

Be a member of the Air Force, Army, Navy, Marines, and Coast Guard and certain components of the National Guard and the Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve

Have been lawfully admitted as an LPR at any time after enlistment/induction, OR was physically present in the United States or specific territories when enlisted/inducted

Must be able to read, write, and speak basic English. Must also have basic knowledge of U.S. History and Government to be able to pass the Civics Test.

Served on active duty status at any time during a period of hostilities and, if separated from the military, separated honorably. Also must be of good moral character and value the U.S. Constitution.

The serviceman or servicewoman may begin the process when they arrive at Basic Military Training (BMT) and their N-400 Packet will be sent to the USCIS Nebraska Service Center when they graduate.

Military personnel may petition for their spouse and his or her children to obtain Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR) Status. If they are already LPRs, they may be eligible for expedited Naturalization.

Every military base should have a designated Point of Contact (POC) person to handle these matters. If you need help finding yours, speak to your C.O.