

TALKING PAPER
ON
INFORMING DAF APPLICANTS ON BMT NATURALIZATION

PURPOSE

- To explain how AFRS informs prospective Airmen/Guardians who are Legal Permanent Residents (LPRs) on the U.S. Naturalization process

BACKGROUND

- LPRs are immigrants admitted for permanent residence to live and work in the United States. LPRs are issued a Permanent Resident Card INS Form I-551 for a period of 2 years (conditional) or 10 years (without conditions).

- Currently, recruiters may enlist LPRs that hold a 10-year card and have at least 6 months or more remaining before expiration.

- LPRs may qualify for naturalization based on military service, which can be completed using the BMT Naturalization Program.

- Recruiters inform all LPRs of the opportunity to become a U.S. citizen through military service and provide the applicant with the following attachments and links to learn more:

-- BMT Naturalization Process – Key Websites (attached)

--- Links to the main USCIS website and how to create an account

--- Instructions on how to complete the Form N-400 “Application for Naturalization” prior to BMT

--- Instructions on how to complete the Form N-426 “Request for Certification of Military or Naval Service” prior to BMT

-- USCIS Online Account Instructions (attached)

-- Sample Citizenship Test Questions (attached)

-- BMT Naturalization Process – Detailed Staff Instructions (attached)

-- Military Naturalization Guide – Air Force BMT (attached)

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-- 10 Steps to Naturalization (<https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/brochures/M-1051.pdf>)

-- Naturalization for Military Members and Their Families
(<https://www.uscis.gov/forms/explore-my-options/naturalization-for-military-members-and-their-families>)

POLICY REFERENCES

- 10 USC § 504 (Armed Forces Eligibility)

-- (A) A national of the United States, as defined in section 101(a)(22) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(22))

-- (B) An alien who is lawfully admitted for permanent residence, as defined in section 101(a)(20) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(20))

- 8 USC § 1440(a) (Naturalization through active-duty service in the Armed Forces during period of military hostilities)

- 8 CFR § 216.1 (Definition of conditional permanent resident)

- DAFMAN 36-2032, *Military Recruiting and Accessions*

-- Enlistment Citizenship Requirement. Para 3.6.1.1.1. An alien lawfully admitted into the United States for permanent residence in accordance with 8 USC § 1101(a)(20), 8 USC § 1401 et seq, 10 USC § 504, and 10 USC § 12102. (T-0)

CONCLUSION

- With DoD and USCIS streamlining the process of naturalization (citizenship) applications for service members based on qualifying military service, DAF recruiters are ensuring that LPRs are well informed and prepared prior to BMT.