



NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU

111 SOUTH GEORGE MASON DRIVE
ARLINGTON VA 22204-1382

ARNG-HRR

19 July 2017

MEMORANDUM FOR NG J1 RRF (All-Entire RRF)

SUBJECT: SMOM 17-050, Accelerated Citizenship Processing for Lawful Permanent Residents (LPR) entering the Army National Guard (ARNG)

1. References:

a. 10 U.S.C. 504.

b. Army Regulation 601-210, Active and Reserve Components Enlistment Program, 30 Sep 16.

c. Army Regulation 635-200, Active Duty Enlisted Administrative Separation, 6 June 2005.

d. The Soldier's Guide to citizenship application, United States Army Human Resources Command, August 2007.

2. The purpose of this message is to update previous guidance on the Department of Defense partnership with US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to provide expedited citizenship processing at all Basic Combat Training (BCT) locations. The goal is to naturalize all LPRs by graduation from Basic Combat Training (BCT). LPR Soldiers enlisted in the ARNG, who wish to obtain US citizenship, should fill out the naturalization packet prior to shipping to BCT.

3. This message applies to all LPR Soldiers pending shipment to IADT.

4. All recruiting personnel; specifically Recruiters, Guidance Counselors and Recruit Sustainment Program (RSP) personnel, will advise LPR Soldiers that they may apply for Naturalization during BCT. RSP personnel will brief all LPR Soldiers during the initial Soldier orientation briefing. LPR Soldiers will be advised "NOT" to mail their application for citizenship to USCIS. Mailing the application will place the Soldier's naturalization application in the normal USCIS process, and USCIS will charge the normal fees. LPR Soldiers will be advised to hand carry their naturalization packets with them on ship day. The naturalization process for military members is expedited and free.

5. Recruit Sustainment Program (RSP) personnel will:

a. Advise all LPR Soldiers that they may fill out the application to apply for citizenship

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during the RSP Soldier Orientation. This process is strictly voluntary, there is no requirement for LPR Soldiers to apply for Naturalization. However, Soldiers who decline to complete the naturalization packet will be required to sign the declination statement (TAB A) stating they have been briefed by RSP personnel, understand the program and decline to participate. The RSP personnel will scan this declination document into the LPR Soldier's file in ERM and SIDPERs.

b. Advise the Soldier they can also get more information about Naturalization at <http://www.uscis.gov>. Place cursor over Citizenship and then Citizenship for Military Personnel & Family Members.

c. All LPR Shippers who elect to apply for Naturalization must ship with the N400 and N426 forms completed to the best of their ability, forms are located on the National Guard Bureau IKROme Home Page under Accessions Suitability and hand carry:

(1) N400 (completed).

(2) N426 (completed, not signed).

(3) I-551 card.

(4) State issue I.D, such as a State Driver's license.

(5) Passports and Travel documents. All valid or expired passports, as well as any travel documents issued by USCIS.

(6) Copies of arrest reports, court and probation documents will be pulled from ERM by the LNO.

d. Instruct the LPR Soldier NOT to mail the naturalization packet to Homeland Security or USCIS. Soldiers will hand carry the naturalization paperwork to the training base.

e. Inform LPR Soldiers that they are eligible to process for expedited naturalization upon arrival at Basic Combat Training and they must have at least one day of active duty to start the application process. Soldiers that fail to meet the full term of their enlistment obligation will be reported to USCIS.

6. Soldiers and their family members may obtain help with their applications for citizenship and other immigration problems by calling the Military Help Line at 1877CIS4MIL (18772474645) between 0800 and 1630 hours, Central Standard Time, Monday-Friday. Additionally, any Soldier who is not granted citizenship at BCT, should call the Military Help Line to have their citizenship application transferred to the local USCIS office near their home of record.

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7. MEPS Guidance Counselors, Direct Ship, and RSP personnel will ensure LPR Soldiers that wish to apply for accelerated Naturalization are in possession of their naturalization packet on ship date and that the packet is being hand carried to the training base. The naturalization packet should be added to all LPR's shipping checklist.

8. ARNG Liaisons will:

a. Inform LPR Soldiers, during initial welcome orientation at the Reception Battalion, that those Soldiers who have hand carried their application must report to the LNO office with their naturalization packet, while still at the reception BN.

b. The ARNG LNO will sign the N426 and inform the LPR Soldier when and where he or she needs to report to meet with a USCIS representative and turn in their naturalization packet.

c. Soldiers that did not bring their paperwork with them or Soldiers that now wish to apply for naturalization will be provided the required naturalization paperwork by the ARNG LNO.

d. The LNO will issue an LNO ticket in VULCAN for each LPR Soldier who arrives at the training base without their naturalization packet, or who decides upon arrival to process for naturalization.

e. USCIS will then collect the LPR Soldier's naturalization packet and perform an initial interview. There will be a second interview by USCIS, and if approved, the LPR Soldier's Naturalization ceremony could occur at the completion of Basic training. Certain cases could take longer depending on the individual Soldier's background.

9. Point of contact is Mr Gregory Williamson, ASO Chief, (502) 626-0084, gregory.c.williamson.civ@mail.mil or Mr. Robert Williams (502) 626-2402, robert.a.williams241.civ@mail.mil.



ROBERT E. KUSTER II
COL, AG
Chief, Strength Maintenance Division
Army National Guard

1 Encls

1. [Naturalization declination letter \(TAB A\).docx](#)