

Fall In

Citizenship eligibility for Soldiers



Members of the U.S. military interested in applying for citizenship may be eligible to apply under special provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act. The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration

Service has created a streamlined process for active duty and recently discharged military personnel.

To qualify, Soldiers must meet the following criteria: honorable service in the U.S. military for one year or more, a lawful permanent resident of the United States and still serving in the military or within six months of being discharged. Soldiers who serve during an authorized period of conflict are also eligible to apply (Sept. 11, 2001 and after qualifies as an authorized period of conflict).

Members of the military pay no fees when filing for naturalization.

Interested Soldiers can obtain the appropriate forms and a copy of the handbook, *A Guide to Naturalization*, by calling (800) 870-3676 and requesting the *Military Packet*.

Additionally, the Soldier's Guide to Citizenship Application is available at <https://www.perscomonline.army.mil/tagd/pssd/ins.htm>.

Global War on Terrorism Medals

The Defense Department announced approval of the Global War on Terrorism Medals. These medals recognize the significance Soldiers bring to bear in combating terrorism in all forms throughout the world — for both current and future operations.

The medals are issued in two categories: expeditionary and service.

The expeditionary medal is for those who deploy to designated combat areas, and the service medal is for those who serve in support of operations to combat terrorism.



Soldiers authorized the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal must have deployed overseas for service in the Global War on

Terrorism operations between Sept. 11, 2001, and a future date to be determined by the Secretary of Defense.

Initial award of the expeditionary medal is limited to personnel deployed abroad in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. The area of eligibility encompasses the United States Central Command area (less the lower Horn of Africa); Middle East; Eastern Turkey; Philippines; Diego Garcia; and all air spaces

above the land and adjacent water areas.

Each combatant commander has the authority to approve awarding of the expeditionary medal for personnel deployed within their theater of operation. Under no circumstances are personnel in the United States eligible for the expeditionary medal.

Soldiers must be assigned, attached or mobilized to a unit participating in designated operations for 30 consecutive days or 60 nonconsecutive days in the area of eligibility. For more information and the complete list of eligibility criteria, go to <https://www.perscom.army.mil/tagd/tioh/Awards/GwotServiceMedal.htm>.

Volunteers for 'units of action'

A new online feature allows Soldiers to volunteer to serve in "units of action" at Fort Campbell, Ky., and Fort Drum, N.Y., for at least three years.

The 10th Mountain Division at Fort Drum and the 101st Airborne Division at

Fort Campbell will be the first units to use the new program known as the Personnel Lifecycle Unit Selection System (PLUS2).

Next in line to use PLUS2 will be select elements of 4th Infantry Division, based at Fort Hood, Texas.

Soldiers interested in volunteering should go to the Human Resources Command Web site at <https://www.hrc.army.mil> and click on the



PLUS2 logo — a Soldier wearing a Kevlar helmet.

Soldiers with less than three years of active-duty service remaining on their enlistments must re-enlist or extend to qualify.

Savings plan for deployed Soldiers

Deployed Soldiers have the opportunity to earn a guaranteed 10 percent interest on their savings annually through the Savings Deposit Program. Soldiers can contribute up to \$10,000 while deployed.

To make a deposit into the fund, Soldiers should contact their finance offices. Withdrawing the money before leaving the combat zone is not authorized unless there is an emergency. The last day to make a deposit into the fund is the date of departure from theater, however, interest will accrue up to 90 days after return from deployment.

